

THE
VANITIE
OF THE
CREATURE.

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To George Thomson



SIR,

Have, upon your desire, composed this short Poem, as a Compendium of my Treatise touching the Vanity of the Creature, and as an Hypotyposis and Portraiture of the Toil which mortal men put themselves unto about Creature-Delights ; together with their Vanity, and Insufficiencie to make men happy.

I had no dexterity this way in my yonger years, when my Fancy was more vigorous ; and I am now super-annuated. Yet I look not on Poetry in re sacra, as a Juvenile Luxuriancie ; it being honored by many Penmen of Holy Writ, and they followed by many grave and learned Doctors of the Christian Church, viz.: Tertullian, Gregory Nazianzen, Prosper, Paulinus, Alcimus Avitus, Juvencus Presbyter, Sedulius, Venantius Fortunatas, and others. It was an absurd Conceit of Eratosthenes , confuted by Strabo, That Poetry lib-
was only for delight, not for doctrine or profit.

A

Atale

I send it you, not in relation to an Herse
(I cannot bury my living Friends, nor ante-
cedate their Funeral-Elegies;) but only to
let you understand how much power you have

in

Jan. 22. 1654.

Your most loving

FRIEND.

E.R.



I Walk'd, and did a little Mole-hill view,
 Full peopled with a most Industrious crew
 Of busie *Ants*; where each one labor'd more
 Then if he were to bring home *Indian Ore*;
 Here wrought the *Pioners*, there march'd the *Bands*,
 Here *Colonies* went forth to plant new *Lands*:
 These hasted out, and those supplies brought in,
 As if they had some sudden *Siege* foreseen:
 Until there came an angry *Spade*, and cast
 Country and People to a Pit at last.

Again I view'd a Kingdom in an *Hive*,
 Where every one did work, and so all thrive.
 Some go, some come, some war, some watch & ward,
 Some make the works, and some the works do guards;
 These frame their curious *Waxen-Cells*, and those
 Do into them their *Nectar*-drops dispose:
 Until the greedy *Gardner* brought his snaffle,
 And, for the work, did all the *Workmen* choke.

Lo here, Frail Mortals may fit *Emblems* see
 Of their great *Toil*, and greater *Vanity*.
 They weary out their *Brain*, their *Strength*, their *Time*,
 While some to *Arts*, and some to *Honors* climb :
 They search *Earth's Bowels*, cross the roaring *Seas*,
 Mortgage their *Souls*, and forfeit all their *Ease*,
 Grudg *Night* her *Sleep*, and lengthen out the *Day*,
 To fat these *Bags*, and cram those *Chefs* with *Clay* :
 They rack and charm each *Creature*, to explore
 Some latent *Quintessence*, not known before :
 Torture, and squeeze out all its *Juice* and *Blood*,
 To try if they can now finde out that *GOOD*
 Which *Solomon* despair'd of : But *at last*
 On the same shore of *Vanity* are cast ;
 The *Spade* stops their *Career* of *Pride* and *Lust*,
 And calls them from their *Clay* unto their *Dust*.
 Leave off your *Circles*, *Archimede* ; away,
 The *King* of *Terror* calls, and will not stay ;
 Miser, kiss all your *Bags*, and then lie down ;
 Scholar, your *Books* ; Monarch, yeeld up your *Crowns* ;

Give way Wealth, Honor, Arts, Thrones ; back, make
That these pale Souls may come unto their doom.

Now shew *vain men* the fruit of all that pain,
 Which in the end nothing but *Loss* did gain :
 Compute your *Lives*, and all your *Hours* upcast,
 Lo here's the *Total Sum* of All at last,

I rose up early, sat up late, to know
 As much as *Men*, as *Tongues*, as *Books* could shew :
 I toil'd to search all *Science*, and all *Art*,
 But died *Ignorant* of mine own *Heart*.

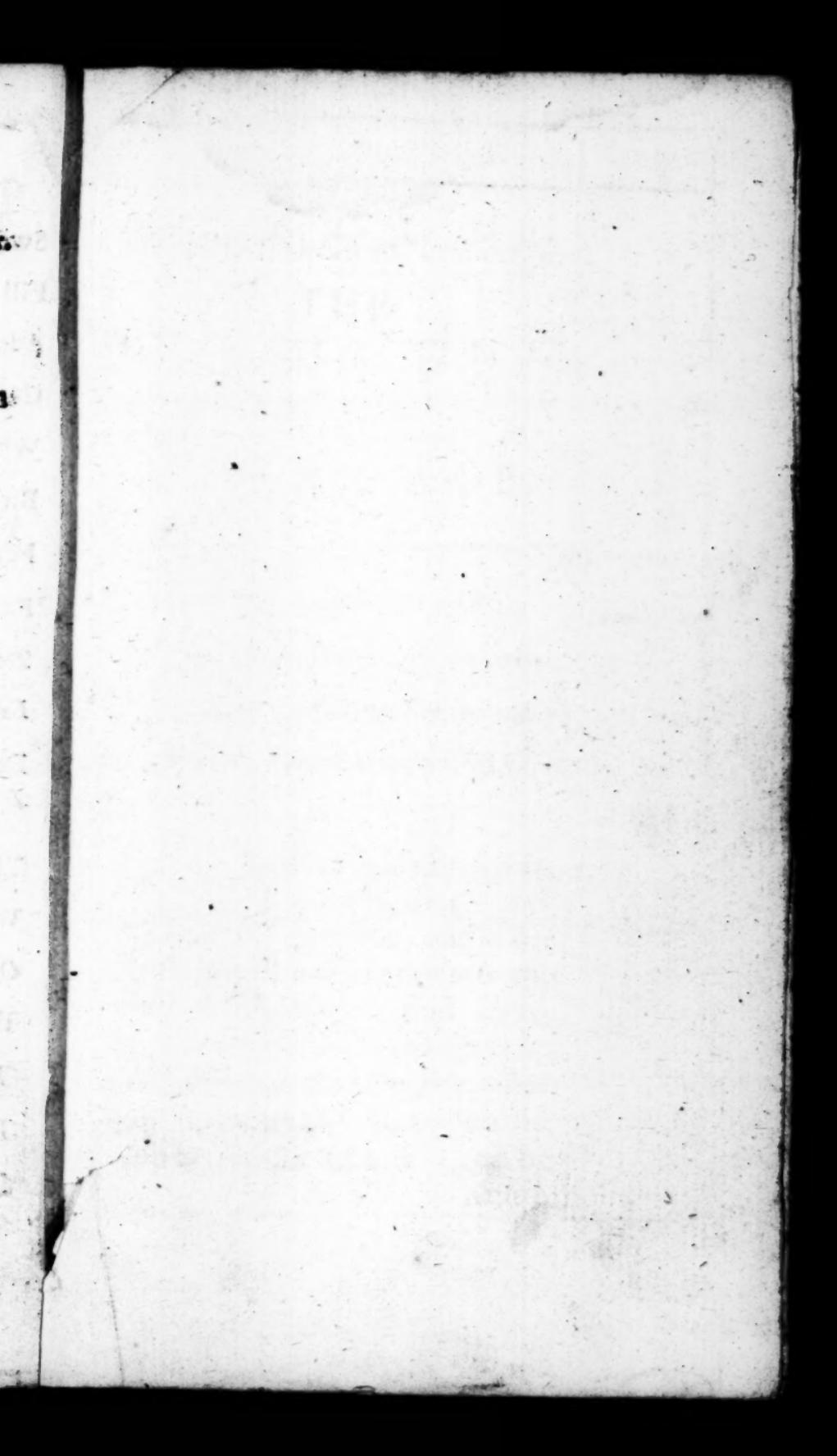
I got great *Honor*, and my *Fame* did stream
 As far as doth the Mornings shining Beam ;
 My *Name* into a Page of *Titles* swell'd,
 My *Head* a *Crown*, mine *Hand* a *Scepter* held :
 Ador'd without, but shameful *lusts* within ;
 Adorn'd with *Titles*, but defil'd with *Sin*. (cost,

With anxious thoughts, with saddest cares and !
 I gain'd these *Lordships*, and this *Soul* I lost :
 My greedy Heir now hovers o'r my pelf,
 I purchas'd *Land* for him, *Hell* for my self.

Go on you Nobler Brains, and fill your sight
 As full of Learning, as the Sun's of light ;
 Expand your Souls to Truth, as wide as Day,
 Know all that Men, know all that Angels say :
 Write Shops of Volumns, and let every Book
 Be fill'd with lustre, as was Moses look.
 Yet know, all this is but a better kind
 Of sublime Vanity, and more refin'd :
 Except a Saving Knowledge, crown the rest,
 Devils know more, and yet shall ne'r be blest.
 Go on Ambitious Worms, yet, yet aspire,
 Lay a sure Scene, how you may yet rise higher :
 March forward Macedonian Horn, adde on
 Gaza to Tyre, Indies to Babylon ;
 Make Stirrups of the peoples Backs and Bones,
 Climb up by them to Diadems and Thrones :
 Thy Crowns are all but Grafts ; thine was the soil,
 Thy Captains come, and they divide the spoil :
 Except one Heavenly Crown, crown all the rest,
 Devils are Potentates, and yet not blest.

Go on base Dunghil-souls, heap Gold as Myre,
 Sweep Silver as the Dust, emulate Tyre,
 Fill every Ware-house, purchase every Field,
 Adde House to House, Pelion on Offa build;
 Get Mida's Vote, to transubstantiate
 Whate'r you please all into Golden Plate;
 Build wider Barns, sing requiem to your Heart,
 Feel your Wealthis pleasures onely, not their smart:
 Except his Riches, who for us was poor,
 Do sweeten those which mortals so adore;
 Except sublimer Wealth, crown all the rest,
 Devils have Nobler Treasures, yet not bleste.
 Cease then from vain Delights, and set your minde
 That solid and enduring GOOD to finde,
 Which sweetens Life and Death, which will increase
 On an immortal Soul, immortal Peace;
 Which will replenish and advance you higher
 Then ere your own Ambition could aspire.
 Fear your Great Maker with a Childlike awe,
 Believe his Grace, love and obey his Law:

This is *The Total work of Man*, and this
 Will crown you here with *Peace*, & there with *Bliss*.
 Be kinde unto your selves ; believe, and try :
 If not, go on, fill up your Lusts, and die.
 Sing peace unto your selves : 'Twill once be known,
 Whose word shall stand, your *Judges*, or your own.
 Crown thee with Rose-buds, satiate thine eyes,
 Glut every Sense with her own vanities :
 Melt into Pleasures, until that which *Lust*
 Did not before consume, rot in the Dust :
 The Thrones are let, the Books will strait be read,
 Hell will her Souls, and Graves give up their dead ;
 Then there will be, (and the time is not far,)
 Fire on the Bench, and Stubble at the Bar.
 O Sinners, ruminate these thoughts agen,
 You have been *Beast* enough, at last be *Mens* !
Christ yet intreats, but if you will not turn,
 Where Grace doth not convert, there Fire will burn.





THE
VANITIE
OF THE
CREATVRE.

ECCLESIASTES I.14.

I have seene all the workes that
are done under the Sunne, and
Behold, All is Vanitie and
Vexation of Spiritt.

 O have a selfe-suffici-
encie in being and o-
peration, and to bee
unsubordinate to any
further End above
himself, as it is utterly repugnant to
the Condition of a Creature, so a-
mongst the rest to *Man* especially;
who besides the limitednesse of his

§ I.

A 2 nature,

nature, as he is a *Creature*, hath contracted much deficiencie, and deformitie as he is a *Sinner*. God never made him to be an End unto himselfe, to be the Center of his owne motions, or to bee happy onely by reflection on his owne excellencies. Something stil there is without him unto which he moves, and from whence God hath appointed that he should recepe either preservation in, or advancement and perfection unto his nature. What that is upon which the desires of man ought to fixe as his Rest and End, is the maine discoverie that the Wise-man makes in this Booke. And he doth it by an historicall and penitentiall review of his former enquiries: from whence he states the point in Two maine Conclusions. The first, the *Creatures Insufficiency*, in the beginning of the Booke, *Vanity of Vanities*. *All is Vanitie*. The second, *Mans duty to God, and Gods All-sufficiencie unto man*, in the End of the Booke, *Let us heare the Conclusion*

sion of the whole matter, Feare God, and keepe his Commandements, for this is Totum hominis, the whole Dutie, the whole End, the whole Happinesse of Man. The former of these two, namely the In-sufficiency of the Creature to satiate the desires, and quiet the motions of the soule of man, is the point I am now to speake of, out of these words.

For understanding whereof, wee must know that it was not God in the Creation, but sinne and the curse which attended it, that brought this Vanitie and vexation upon the Creature. God made e-
very thing in it selfe very good, and therefore very fit for the desires of man some way or other to take sa-
tisfaction from. As prickes, and quavers, and tests in Musick serve in their order to command the cun-
ning of the Artist, and to delight the Eare of the hearer, as well as more perfect notes : so the meanest of the Creatures were at first filled with so much goodnesse, as did not one-

Rom. 8. 20.
22.

Rom. 3. 23.

§ 3.

ly declare the glory of God, but in their ranke likewise minister content to the minde of man. It was the sin of man that fil'd the creature with vanity, & it is the vanity of the Creature, that fils the soule of man with Vexation. As sin makes man come short of glory, w^{ch} is the rest of the soule in the fruitiō of God in himselfe; so doth it make him come short of Contentation too, which is the rest of the Soule in the fruition of God in his Creatures. Sinne tooke away Gods favour from the soule, and his Blessing from the Creature, It put bitterness into the Soule, that it cannot relish the Creature, and it put Vanity into the creature, that it cannot nourish nor satisfie the Soule.

The Desires of the Soule can never be satisfied with any Good, till they finde in it these two qualities or relations, wherein indeed the formality of Goodnesse doth consist; namely, *Proportion* and *Povertie*. First, nothing can satisfie the desires of the Soule till it beares

convenience and fitness thereunto; for it is with the minde as with the body, the richest attire that is, if it bee either too loose or too streight, however it may please a mans pride must needs offend his body. Now nothing is Proportionable to the minde of man, but that which hath reference unto it as it is a Spirituall Soule. For though a man have the same sensitive appetites about him which wee finde in beasts ; yet, in as much as that appetite was in man created subordinate unto reason, and obedient to the Spirit; the case is plaine, that it can never be fully satisfied with its object, unlesse that likewise bee subordinate, and linked to the Object of the superior facul-ty, which is God. So then the Creature can never bee Proportionable to the Soule of man, til it bring God along with it. So long as it is emp-tie of God, so long must it needs be full of *Vanitie* and *Vexation*.

But now it is not sufficient that there be *Proportion*, unlesse withall

A 4 there

there bee *Propriety*. For God is a *Proportionable Good* unto the nature of Divels as well as of men or good Angels; yet no good comes by that unto them, because hee is none of their God, they have no interest in him, they have no union unto him. Wealth is as commensurate unto the minde and occasions of a begger as of a Prince; yet the goodness and comfort of it extends not unto him, because he hath no propriety unto any. Now sinne hath taken away the Propriety which wee have in Good, hath unlinked that golden chaine, whereby the Creature was joyned unto God, and God with the Creature came along unto the minde of man. So that till wee can recover this Union, and make up this breach againe, it is impossible for the Soule of man to receive any satisfaction from the Creature alone. Though a man may have the possession of it, as a *Naked Creature*, yet not the fruition of it, as a *Good Creature*.

For

For *Good* the *Creature* is not unto any but by vertue of the blessing and Word accompanying it. And man naturally hath no right unto the Blessing of the *Creature*; for it is Godlinesse which hath the Promises, and by consequence the Blessing as well of this as of the other life. And God is not in his favour reconciled unto us, nor reunited by his Blessing unto the *Creature*, but onely in and through Christ. So then the minde of a man is fully and onely satisfied with the *Creature*, when it finds *God* and *Christ* together in it: *God* making the *Creature* suitable to our inferiour desires, and *Christ* making both *God* and the *Creature* ours; *God* giving *Proportion*, and *Christ* giving *Proprietie*.

These things thus explained, let us now consider the *Insufficiencie* of the *Creature* to conferre, and the *Unsatisfiabilitesse* of the flesh to receive, any solid or reall satisfaction from any of the workes which are

§ 4.

A. 5. done

done under the Sunne. Man is naturally a proud Creature, of high projects, of unbounded desires, ever framing to himselfe I know not what imaginary and phantasticall felicities, which have no more proportion unto reall and true contentment, than a king on a stage to a king on a throne, than the houses which children make of cards, unto a princes palace. Ever since the fall of *Adam* hee hath an itch in him to be a god within himselfe, the fountaine of his owne goodnesse, the contriver of his owne sufficiencie; loth hee is to goe beyond himselfe, or what hee thinkes properly his owne, for that in which hee resolves to place his rest. But alas, after hee had toil'd out his heart, and wasted his spirits, in the most exact inventions that the Creature could minister unto him, *Salemon* here, the most experiened for enquirie, the most wise for contrivance, the most wealthy for compassing such earthly delights, hath, after many yeares

yeares lifting out the finest flower, and torturing nature to extract the most exquisite spirits, and purest quintessence, which the varieties of the Creatures could affoord, at last pronounced of them all, That they are *Vanity and Vexation of Spirit*: Like thornes, in their gathering they pricke, that is their *Vexation*, and in their burning they suddenly blaze and waste away, that is their *Vanitie*. Vanitie in their duration, fraile and perishable things; and *Vexation* in their enjoyment, they nothing but molest and disquiet the heart. *The eye sayth Salomon, is not satisfied with seeing, nor the ear with hearing*: Notwithstanding they bee the widest of all the senses, can take in more abundance with lesse satiety, and serve more immeadiatly for the supplies of the reasonable Soule, yet a mans eye-strings may even crack with vehemency of poring, his ears may bee filled with all the varietie of the most exquisite sounds and harmonies, and lectures in

in the world, and yet still his Soule within him bee as greedy to see and heare more as it was at first. Who would have thought that the favour of a Prince, the adoration of the people, the most conspicuous honours of the Court, the liberty of utterly destroying his most bitter adversaries, the sway of the sterne and univerſall negotiations of state, the concurrency of all the happiness, that wealth, or honour, or intimacy with the Prince, or Deity with the people, or extremity of luxurie could affoord, would possibly have left any roome or nooke in the heart of *Haman* for discontent? And yet do but observe, how the want of one Iewes knee (who dares not give Divine Worship to any but his Lord) blasts all his other glories, brings a dampe upon all his other delights, makes his head hang downe, and his mirth wither: so little leaven was able to sowre all the Queenes banquet, and the Kings favour. *Ahab* was a king, in

in whom therefore wee may justly expect a confluence of all the happinesse which his dominions could afford; a man that built whole cities and dwelt in Ivorie Palaces, and yet the want of one poore Vineyard of *Naboth* brings such a heavinessse of heart, such a deadnesse of countenance on so great a person, as seemed in the judgement of *Iezabel* farre unbeseeching the honour and distance of a prince. Nay *Salomon*, a man every way more a king both in the minde and in the state of a king than *Abab*, a man that did not use the Creature with a sensuall, but with a criticall fruition, *To finde out that good which God had given men under the Sunne*, and that in such abundance of all things, learning, honour, pleasure, peace, plenty, magnificence, forraine supplies, roiall visits, noble confederacies, as that in him was the pattern of a compleat Prince beyond all the plat-formes and Idea's of *Plato* and *Xenophon*; even hee was never able

able to repose his heart upon any or all these things together, till hee brings in the feare of the Lord for the close of all. Lastly, looke on the people of Israel; God had delivered them from a bitter thralldome, had divided the sea before them, and destroyed their enemies behinde them, had given them bread from heaven, and fed them with Angels food, had commanded the rocke to satisfie their thirst, and made the Canaanites to melt before them; his mercies were magnified with the power of his miracles, and his miracles crowned with the sweetnesse of his mercies, besides the assurance of great promises to bee performed in the holy land:and yet in the midst of all this wee finde nothing but murmuring and repining. God had given them meat for their faith, but they must have meat for their lust too; it was not enough that God shewed them mercies, unlesse his mercies were dressed up and fitted to their palate,

They

They tempted God, and limited the holy one of Israel, saith the Prophet. So infinitely unsatisfiable is the fleshly heart of man either with mercies or miracles, that bring nothing but the Creatures to it.

Psal.78.

41.

¶ 5.

The ground whereof is the *Vast Disproportion* which is between the Creature and the Soule of man, whereby it comes to passe, that it is absolutely impossible for one to fill up the other. The Soule of man is a substance of unbounded desires : and that will easily appear if wee consider him in any estate , either *Created* or *Corrupted*. In his *Created* estate he was made with a soule capable of more glory , than the whole earth or all the frame of nature, though changed into one Paradise, could have afforded him: for he was fitted unto so much honour as an infinite and everlasting Communion with God could bring along with it. And now God never in the Creation gave unto any Creature a proper capacity of a thing,

unto

unto which he did not withall im-
plant such motions and desires in
that Creature, as should bee some-
what suteable to that capacitie, and
which might (if they had beeene
preserved intire) have brought man
to the fruition of that Good which
he desired. For notwithstanding it
be true that the Glory of God can-
not be attain'd unto by the vertue
of any action which man either can,
or ever could have performed : yet
God was pleased out of *Mercy*, for
the magnifying of his name, for the
Communicating of his glory, for the
advancement of his Creature, to
enter into Covenant with man, and
for his naturall obedience to pro-
mise him a supernaturall reward.
And this, I say, was even then out of
mercy ; in as much as *Adams* legall
obedience of works could no more
in any vertue of its owne, but onely
in Gods mercifull contract and ac-
ceptance, merit everlasting life, than
our Evangelical Obedience of faith
can now. Obely the difference
betweene

betweene the mercie of the first and second Covenant (and it is a great difference) is this. God did out of mercy propose Salvation unto *Adam* as an infinite Reward of such a finite obedience, as *Adam* was able by his owne created abilities to have performed. As if a man should give a Day-labourer a hundred pound for his dayes worke, which performe indeed hee did by his owne strength, but yet did not merit the thousandth part of that wages which hee receives : But Gods mercy unto us is this, That he is pleased to bestow upon us not onely the reward, but the worke and merit which procured the reward, that hee is pleased in us to reward another mans worke, even the worke of Christ our head : as if when one onely Captaine had by his wisedome discomfited and defeated an enemie, the Prince notwithstanding should reward his alone service, with the advancement of the whole armie which he led.

led. But this by the way. Certaine in the meane time it is, that God created man with such capacities and desires, as could not be limited with any or all the excellencies of his fellow and finite Creatures.

Nay, looke even upon *Corrupted nature*, and yet there we shall still discover this restlesnesse of the minde of man, though in an evill way, to promote it selfe: whence arise distractions of heart, thoughts for to morrow, rovings and inquisitions of the Soule after infinite varieties of earthly things, swarmes of lust, sparkles of endlesse thoughts those secret flowings, and ebbes, and tempests, and estuations of that sea of corruption in the heart of man, but because it can never finde any thing on which to rest, or that hath roome enough to entertaine so ample and so endlesse a guest? Let us then looke a little into the particulars of that great disproportion and Insufficiency of any or all the Creatures

tures under the Sunne, to make up
an adequate and suteable Happi-
nessse for the Soule of man.

Salomon here expresseth it in
two words, *Vanity* and *Vexation*.
From the first of these wee may ob-
serve a threefold disproportion be-
tween the Soule and the Creatures.
First, in regard of their *nature and
worth*, they are base in comparison
of the *Soule of man*: When *Da-
vid* would shew the infinit distance
betweene God and Man in power
and strength, hee expresseth the
basenesse of man by his vanity, To
be laied in the ballance, *they are al-
together lighter than vanitie, Psalm.
62.9.* And surely, if we weigh the
Soule of man and all the Creatures
under the Sunne together, wee shall
finde them lighter than Vanitie it
selfe. All the goodnessse and ho-
nour of the Creature ariseth from
one of these *Two grounds*; either
from mans coyning or from Gods, ei-
ther from *Opinion imposed upon
them by men, or from some Reall
qualities,*

§ 6.

qualities, which they have in their nature. Many things there are which have all that worth and estimation which they carry amongst men, not from their owne qualities, but from humane institution, or from some difficulties that attend them, or from some other outward Imposition. When a man gives money for meat, wee must not thinke there is any naturall proportion of worth betweene a piece of silver and a peece of flesh ; for that worth which is in the meat is its owne, whereas that which is in the money is by humane appointment. The like wee may say for great titles of honour and secular degrees, though they bring authoritic, distance, reverence with them from other men, yet notwithstanding they do not of themselves, by any proper vertue of their owne, put any solid and fundamentall merit into the man himselfe. Honour is but the raising of the rate and value of a man, it car-

ries nothing of substance necessarily along with it; as in raising the valuations of gold from twenty shillings, to twenty two, the matter is the same, onely the estimation different. It is in the power of the King to raise a man out of prison like *Joseph*, and give him the next place unto himself. Now this then is a plain argument of the great basenesse of any of these things in comparison of the Soule of man , and by consequence of their great disability to satisfie the same ; for can a man make any thing equall to himselfe ? Can a man advance a peece of gold or silver into a reasonable,a spirituall,an eternall substance ? A man may make himselfe like these things, he may debase him selfe into the vilenesse of an Idoll, *They that make them are like unto them :* hee may undervalue and uncoyne himselfe, blot out Gods Image and inscription, and write in the image and inscription of earth and Satan, he may turne himselfe

into

into braffe, and iron, and reprobate silver; as the Prophet speakes; but never can any man raise the Creatures by all his estimations to the worth of a man: wee cannot so much as change the colour of a haire, or adde a cubit to our stature, much lesse can wee make any thing of equall worth with our whole selves. Wee reade indeed of some which have sold the righteous, and that at no great rate neither, for *a paire of shooes. Joel 3. 6. Amos 2.6.* But wee see there how much the Lord abhorred that detestable fact, and recompenc'd it upon the necke of the oppressors. How many men are there still that set greater rates upon their owne profits or liberties, or preferments, or secular accommodations, than on the soules of men, whose perdition is oftentimes the price of their advancements? But yet still Saint Pauls rule must hold, *For meat destroy not the worke of God,* for money betray not the bloud of Christ, destroy

destroy not him with thy meat, with thy dignities, with thy preferments, for whom Christ died. Wee were not redeemed with silver and gold from our vaine Conversation, saith the Apostle, I. Pet. 1.18. and therefore these things are of too base a nature to be put into the ballance with the souls of men; and that man infinitely undervalues the worke of God, the image of God, the bloud of God, who for so base a purchase as monie, or preferment, or any earthly and vaine-glorious respect doth either hazard his owne, or betray the soules of others commended to him.

And therefore this should teach all those upon whom the Lord hath bestowed a greater portion of this opinionative felicitie, I meane, of mony, honour, reputation, or the like; First, *not so Trust* in uncertainte Riches, not to relye upon a foundation of their owne laying for matter of Satisfaction to their Soule, nor to boast in the multitude of their riches,

§ 7.

ches, as the Prophet speaks, *Psal. 49. 6.* (for that is certainly one great effect of the Deceitfulness of Riches, spoken of Matth. 13. 22. to perswade the Soule that there is more in them than indeed there is) and the Psalmist gives an excellent reason in the same place, *No man can by any meanes redeeme his brother, nor give to God a ransom for him, for the redemption of their Soule is pretious.*

§ 8.

And secondly, it may teach them as not to trust, so *not to swell* with these things neither. It is an argument of their windinesse and emptiness that they are apt to make men swell: whereas if they cannot change a haire of a mans head, nor adde an inch to his stature, they can much lesse make an accession of the least dramme of merit, or reall value to the owners of them. And surely if men could seriously consider, That they are still members of the same common body, and that of a twofold body, a civill and a mysticall

mysticall body , and that though they haply may be the more honorable parts in one body, yet in the other they may bee the lesse honorable; that the poore whom they despise may in Christ's body have a higher roome than they (as the Apostle saith, *Hath not God chosen the poore in this world, Rich in faith, Iam.2.5.*) I say, if men could compare things rightly together, and consider that they are but the greater Letters in the same Volume, and the poore the smaller, though they take up more roome, yet they put no more matter nor worth into the word which they compound, they would never suffer the Tympanie and inflation of pride or superciliousnesse, of selfe-attributions , or contempt of their meaner brethren to prevaile within them. Wee see in the naturall body, though the head have a Hat on of so many shillings price, and the foot a shooe of nothalf so many pence, yet the head doth not therefore despise the

foot, but is tender of it, and doth derive influence as well unto that as to any nobler part: and surely so should it be among men, though God hath given thee an Eminent station in the body, cloath'd thee with purple and scarlet, and hath set thy poore neighbour in the lowest part of the body, and made him conversant in the dirt, and content to cover himself with leather, yet you are still members of the same common body, animated with the same spirit of Christ, moulded out of the same dirt, appointed for the same inheritance, borne out of the same wombe of natural blindnesse, partakers of the same great and precious promises, there was not one price for the Soule of the poore man, and another for the rich, there is not one Table for Christ's meaner guests, and another for his greater, but the faith is a ^a Common faith, th^b: salvation a ^b Common salvation, th^c: rule a Common rule, th^d: hope a Common hope, one

*Ex eodem
utero igno-
rante.*

Tert.

^a Tit. 1.4.

^b Jude ver. 3

^c Gal. 6. 16

^d Phil. 3. 16

Ephes.

4. 4.

one Lord, and one Spirit, and one Baptisme, and one God and Father of all; and ^c One foundation, and ^f One house; and therefore wee ought to have ^g Care and Compassion one of another.

Secondly, consider that Goodnesse and value which is fix'd to the being of the Creature, implanted in it by God and the institution of nature, and even thus wee shall finde them absolutely unable to satisfie the desires of the reasonable and spirituall Soule. God is the Lord of all the Creatures, they are but as his severall monies, hee coyned them all. So much then of his Image as any Creature hath in it, so much value and worth it carries. Now God hath more communicated himselfe unto man, than unto any other Creature; in his Creation wee finde man made after the ^h similitude of God, and in his restauration wee finde God made after the ⁱ similitude of man, and man once againe after the ^k simili-

^c I. Cor. 3.

^l I.

^f Ephes.

2.19.

Eph.3.15.

I. Tim.3.

15.

^g I Cor.

12.25.

§ 9.

^h Gen.1.

27.

ⁱ I. Tim.

3.16.

Rom.8.3.

^k Ephes.

4.24.

Col.3.10.

Matth. xvi.
26.

militude of God. And now it is needless to search out the worth of the Creature. Our Saviour will decide the point, *What shall a man gaine though bee winne the whole world, and lose his owne Soule, or what shall a man give in exchange for his Soule?* To which of the Creatures sayd God at any time, Let us create it after our image? of which of the Angels said Hee at any time, Let us restore them to our Image againe? There is no Creature in heaven or earth, which is recompence enough for the losse of a Soule. Can a man carry the world into hell with him to bribe the flames, or corrupt his tormentors? No, saith the Psalmist, *His glory shall not descend after him.* Psal. 49. I 7. But can hee buy out his pardon before hee comes thither? no neither, *the Redemption of a Soule is more precious,* vers. 8. Wee know the Apostle counts all things Dung, *Phil. 3. 8.* and will God take Dung in exchange for a Soule? Certainly, Beloved, when

a man can sow grace in the fur-
rowes of the field, when he can
fill his barnes with glory, when
hee can get bagges full of Salvati-
on, when hee can plow up Heaven
out of the Earth, and extract God
out of the Creatures, then he may
bee able to finde that in them
which shall satisfie his desires. But
till then, let a man have all the
exquisite curiosities of Nature
heaped into one vessell, let him be
moulded out of the most delicate
ingredients, and noblest principles
that the World can contribute, let
there bee in his body a concurren-
cie of all beautie and feature, in
his nature an Eminence of al sweet-
nesse and ingenuity, in his minde
a conspiration of the politest, and
most choice varieties of all kinde of
learning, yet still the spirit of that
man is no whit more valuable
& precious, no whit more proportion-
able to Eternall Happinesse, than
the Soule of a poore and illiterate
begger. Difference indeed there is,

and that justly to bee made betweene them in the eyes of men, which difference is to expire within a few yeares: and then after the dust of the beautifull and deformed, of the learned and ignorant, of the honourable and base are promiscuously intermingled, and death hath equalled all, then at last there will come a day when all mankinde shall bee summoned naked, without difference of degrees before the same tribunall: when the Crowns of Kings and the shuckles of prisoners, when the robes of Princes and the ragges of Beggars, when the Gallants braverie and the Peasants russet, and the Statists policie, and the Courtiers luxurie, and the Scho'ars curiosity shall be all laied aside: when all men shall bee reduced unto an e-quall plea, and without respect of persons shall bee doomed according to their workes: when *Nero* the persecuting Emperour shall be throwne to Hell, and *Paul* the per-

persecuted Apostle shall shine in glory, when the learned Scribes and Pharisees shall gnash their teeth, and the ignorant, and as they terme them, cursed people, shall see their Saviour : when the proud Antichristian Prelates, that dy'd their robes in the bloud of the Saints shall bee hurried to damnation, and the poore despised martyrs whom they persecuted shall wash their feet in the bloud of their enemies : when those punctoes, and formalities, and cuts, and fashions, and distances, and complements, which are now the darling sinnes of the upper end of the World, shall bee proved to have beeene nothing else but well-acted vanities : when the pride, luxurie, riot, swaggering, interlarded and complementall oathes, nice and quaint lasciviousnesse, new invented courtings and adorations of beauty, the so much studied and admired sinnes of the gallantrie of the world, shall bee pronounced out of

the mouth of God himselfe to have been nothing else but glittering abomination; when the adulterating of wares, the counterfeiting of lights, the double weight and false measures, the courteous equivocations of men greedy of gain, which are now almost woven into the very arts of trading, shall be pronounced nothing else but mysteries of iniquitie and selfe-deceivings : when the curious subtleties of more choice wits, the knottie questions, and vaine strife of words, the disputes of reason, the variety of reading, the very circle of generall and secular learning, pursued with so much eagernesse by the more ingenious spirits of the world, shall bee all pronounced but the thinne cobwebs and vanishing difficulties of a better tempered prophanenesse ; and lastly, when that poore despised profession of the power of Christianitie, a trembling at the Word of God, a scrupulous forbearance not of oathes only,

ly, but of idle words, a tendernesse
and aptnesse to bleed at the touch
of any sinne , a boldnesse to
withstand the corruptions of the
times, a conscience of but the ap-
pearances of evill , a walking
mournfully and humbly before
God, a heroicall resolution to bee
strict and circumspect, to walke in
an exact and geometricall holinesse
in the middest of a crooked and
perverse generation, the so much
conclamated and scorned peevish-
nesse of a few silly, unpolitick, un-
regarded hypocrites as the world
esteemes them, shall in good ear-
nest from the mouth of God him-
selfe bee declared to have beene
the true narrow way which leadeth
to salvation, and the enemies there-
of shall, when it is too late, bee
driven to that desperat and shame-
full confession, *Wee fooles counsed
their life madnesse, and their end to
have been without honour; how are
they now reckoned amongst the
Saints, and have their portion*

§ IO.

Ier. 16. 19.

with the Almighty?

A second branch of the disproportion betweene the soule of man and the Creatures, arising from the *Vanity* thereof, is their *Deadness*, *unprofitableness*, *inefficacie* by any inward vertue of their owne to convey or preserve life in the Soule. Happinesse in the Scripture-phrase is called *Life*, consisting in a Communion with God in his Holinesse and glory. Nothing then can truly bee a prop to hold-up the Soule, which cannot either preserve that life which it hath, or convey unto it that which it hath not. Charge those, sayth the Apostle, that are rich in this World, that they bee not high minded, neither trust in *uncertaine Riches*, but in the *living God*, 1 Tim. 6. 17. hee opposeth the life of God to the vanity and uncertainty, the word is, to the *Invidiousnes* of *Riches*, whereby a man can never demonstrate to himselfe or others the cer-

certaintie or happynesse of his life. The like opposition wee shall find excellently expressed in the Prophet Jeremie, *My people have committed two evills, they have forsaken mee the Fountaine of living water, and have hewed them out Cisterns, broken Cisterns that can hold no water.* Jer. 2.13. That is, my people are willing to attribute the blessings they enjoy, and to sue for more, rather unto any cause than unto mee the Lord. *She did not know,* saith the Lord elsewhere, *That I gave her her corn and her wine, and multiplied her siluer and gold, &c.* But said of them, *these are my rewards which my Lovers have given mee.* But saith the Lord, so long as they trusted mee, they rested upon a sure fountaine that would never fail them; with thee saith the Psalmist, *is the Fountaine of life:* and so saith the Apostle too, *Let your conversation bee without covetousnesse,* that is, Doe not make an Idoll

Hof 2.8.12

Psal.36."9.

Matth. 13.
22.

Prov. 30.8.

Heb. 13.5.

Act. 13.34

Idoll of the Creature, doe not heape vessels full of monie together, and then thinke that you are all sure ; the Creature hath no life in it, nay it hath no truth in it neither, there is deceit and cozenage in riches; but saith hee, Let your conversation bee with contentment, consider that what you have is the *dimensum*, the portion which God hath allotted you, that food which hee findeth most convenient for you ; hee knowes that more would but cloy you with a surfeit of pride or worldliness, that you have not wisdome, humilitie, faith, heavenly mindednesse enough to concoct a more plentifull estate ; and therefore receive your portion from him, trust his wisdome and care over you, *For he hath said, I will not faile thee nor forsake thee.* Well then, saith the Lord, so long as they rested on mee, they rested upon a sure supply (All his mercies are *sure mercies*) upon a Fountaine which would

would never fayle them: But when once they forsake mee, and will not trust their lives in my keeping, but with the Prodigall will have their portion in their owne hands, their water in their owne *Cisternes*, their pits prove unto them but like *Iobs* torrent, deepe and plentifull though they seeme for a time, yet at length they make those ashamed that relied upon them. And so I finde the Prophets assuring us that *Israel* which put so much confidence in the carnall policies of *re-roboam* for preserving the kingdome of the ten Tribes from any re-union with the house of *David*, was at last constrained to blush at their owne wisedome, and to bee ashamed of *Bethel* their confidence. Briefly then for that place, there are two excellent things intimated in those two words of *Cisternes* and *Broken Cisternes*: First, the wealth and honour which men get not from thee Lord, but by carnall dependencies, are but *Cisterns*

Iob. 6.15.

*1.King. 12.
26.*

*Ier. 48. 13.
Esai. 30. 3.
Esai. 20. 5.*

at

at the best, and in that respect they have an evill quality in them, they are like dead water, apt to putrefie and corrupt ; beeing cut off from the influence of God the Fountaine of life , they have no savour nor sweetnesse in them. Besides, they are *Broken Cisterns* too, as they have much mud and rotteness in them, so they are full of chinkes, at which whatever is cleare and sweet runnes away, and nothing but dregges remaine behinde. The worldly pleasures which men enjoy, their youthfull vigour that carried them with delight and furie to the pursuit of fleshly lusts, the content which they were wont to take in the formalities and complements of courtship and good-fellowship, with a storme of sickenesse, or at farthest a winter of age blowes all away, and then when the fruit is gone, there remaines nothing but the diseases of it behinde, which their surfeit had begotten, a conscience-worme to torment the soule.

Thus

Thus the life which we fetch from the Cisterne is a *vanishing life*, there is still, after the use of it, lesse left behinde than there was before: but the life which wee fetch from the fountaine is a fixed, an *Abiding life*, as S. John speakes, or, as our Saviour calls it, a *Life that Abounds*, like the pumping of water out of a fountaine, the more it is drawn, the faster it comes.

¶ II.

1. Job. 3.15

Ioh. 10.10

We grant indeed, that the Lord, beeing the Fountaine of life, doth allow the Creature in regard of life temporall some subordinate operation and concurrencie in the worke of preserving life in us. But wee must also remember, That the Creatures are but *Gods Instruments* in that respect: and that not as servants are to their masters, Living instruments, able to worke without concurrence of the superiour cause; but *Dead Instruments*, and therefore must never bee separated from the *Principall*. Let God subduct from them that concourse of

of his owne which actuates and applies them to their severall services, and all the Creatures in the world are no more able to preserve the body or to comfort the minde, than an axe and a hammer and those other dead instruments are able by themselves alone to erect some stately edifice. It is not the corne or the flowre, but the staffe of bread which supports the life, and that is not any thing that comes out of the earth, but something which comes downe from heaven, even the blessing which sanctifieth the Creature: for man liveth not by bread alone, but by the word which proceedeth out of Gods mouth. The Creature cannot hold up it selfe, much lesse contribute to the subsistence of other things, unlesse God continue the influence of his blessing upon it. As soone as Christ had cursed the Figge-tree, it presently withered and dried up ~~in p̄cūr~~, from the roots; to shew that it was not the root alone, but the blessing of Christ w hich

which did support the figge-tree. The Creatures of themselves are *indifferent to contrary operations*, according as they have been by God severally applied. Fire preserved the three children in the furnace, and the same fire licked up the instruments of the persecution. Fire came downe from Heaven to destroy Sodome, and fire came downe from heaven to advance *Elias*; the same sea a *Sanctuary unto Israel* and a *Grave unto Egypt*; *Jonah* had been drowned if hee had not been devoured, the latter destruction was a deliverance from the former, and the ravine of the fish a refuge from the rage of the Sea : pulse kept *Daniel* in good liking, which the meat of the Kings table could not doe in the other children : for indeed *Life is not a thing merely natural, but of promise*, as the Apostle speakes; Let the promise be remov'd, & however a wicked man lives as wel as a righteous man, yet his life is

1. Tim. 4. 8.

2. Tim. 1. 1

Habac. 2.13

is indeed but a breathing death, only the cramming of him to a day of slaughter : When the blessing of God is once subdued, though men labour in the very fire, turne their vitall heat with extremitie of paines into a very flame, yet the cloſe of all their labour will prove nothing but *Vanity*, as the Prophet speakes. Wee should therefore pray unto God that we may live not onely by the Creature, but by the Word which sanctifieth the Creature, that wee may not leane upon our substance, but upon Gods promises, that wee may not live by that which wee have onely, but by that which wee hope for, and may still finde God accompanying his owne blessings unto our Soule.

§ 12.

But here the vanity and wickedness of many worldly men is justly to bee reproved, who *Rest on the Creature* as on the onely ſtuffe and comfort of their life, who count it their principall joy when their corne,

corne and wine, and oyle encra-
seth, who magnifie their owne
arts, sacrifice to their owne net
and drag (which is the *Idolatrie of
Covetousnesse*, so often spoken of
by the Apostle, when all the trust
and hope, and glory, and rejoicing
which men have is in the Creature,
and not in God.) They boast,
sayth the Psalmist, in the multitude
of their Riches. Nay, so much
sottishnesse there is in the nature
of man, and so much sophistrie in
the Creature, that the proud foole
in the Gospell from the greatness
of his wealth concludes *she songes
of his life, Thou hast much laid up for
many yeares; and the certaintie of
his mirth and pleasure, Take thine
ease, eat, drinke, and bee merry;*
*Their inward thoughte is, that their
houses shall endure for ever, and their
dwelling places to all generations.*
And David himselfe was over-ta-
ken with this folly, *I sayd in my pro-
sperity, I shall never bee moved.*
Yea so much seed is there of pride

Habac.1.
15.16.
Ephes.5.5.
Col.3.5.

Psal.49.6

Luk.12.19.

Psal.49.11
Psal.10.6

in the heart of man, and so much
heatē (as I may so speake) and vi-
gour in the Creature to quicken it,
as that men are apt to *Desifie them-*
selves in the reflexionon their own
greatnesse, and to *desifie any thing*
els which contributes to the inlarge-
ment of their ambitious purposēs.
The greatnessse of the Persian Em-
perors made them all usurpe religi-
ous worship from their subjects.
The like insolence wee finde in the
Babylonish Monarchs, they exal-
ted themselves above the height of
the clouds, and made themselves
equall to the most High. *Ezias.* 14.
14.yea their pride made them for-
get any God save themselves, *I am*,
and there is none besides me, *Isai.* 47.
7,8. It was the blasphemous arro-
gance of Tyrus the rich city, *I am a*
God, I sit in the seat of God, I have
a heart like the heart of God, *Ezek.*
28.26. Neither are these the sinnes
of those times alone ; the fountain
of them is in the nature, and the
fruits of them in the lives of those,
who

Vid. Brissō.
de Regno
Perſi. l. 1.

p.8.14.

Zeph. 2.15.

who dare not venture upon the words : For albeit men with their mouthes professe God, there is yet a bitter root of Atheisme and of Polutheisme in the mindes of men by nature, which is mightily actu-
ated by the abundance of earthly things. Where the treasure is, there is the heart, where the heart, there the happiness, and where the hap-
piness, there the God.

Now worldly men put their trust in their riches, set their heart upon them, make them their strong city, and therefore no marvell if they bee their Idoll too. What is the reason why oftentimes we may observe rich and mighty men in the world to bee more impatient of the Word of God, more bitter scorneres of the power of Religion, more fearefully given over to the pursuit of fleshly lusts and secular purposes, to vanity, vaine glory, ambition, revenge, fierce, implacable, bloody passions, bra-
sen and boasting abhominations, than

Psal. 9. 20.

Mat. 6. 21.

§ 130.

Psal. 49. 6.

Psal. 62. 10

Prov. 10. 5

Ier. 43. 3.
Obad.
vers. 3.

Psal. 17.10
Psal. 10.4.5
Job 20.7.

15.

than other men, but because they have some secret opinion that there is not so great a distance betwene God and them, as between God and other men; but because the abundance of worldly things hath brawned their heart, and fatted their conscience, and thickened their eies against any feare, or faith, or notice at all of that supreame dominion and impartiall revenge which the most powerfull and just God doth bear over all sinners, and against all sinnes? What is the reason why many ordinary men drudge and moyle all the yeare long, thinke every houre in the Church so much time lost from their life, are not able to forbear their covetous practices on Gods owne Day, count any time of their life, any worke of their hand, any sheafe of their corne, any penny of their purse throwne quite away, even as so much bloud powr'd out of their veines, which is bestow'd on the worship of God,

and

and on the service of the Altar; but because men thinke that there is indeed more life in their money, and the fruits of their ground, than in their God or the promises of his Gospell? Else how could it possibly bee, if men did not in their heares make God a tyar, as the Apostle speakes; that the Lord should professe so plainly, from this day upward, since a stone hath beene layed of my house, since you have put your selves to any charges for my worship, I will surely blesse you: and againe, Bring all my tithes into my house, and prove me if I will not open the windowes of heaven, and poure a blessing upon you that there shall not bee roome enough to holdit: & again, He that hath pity on the poore lendeth unto the Lord, and that which bee hath given, will bee pay him againe: and againe, If thou wilt hearken unto mee, and observe to doe all these things, then all these blessings shall come on thee and overtake thee, blessings in the Cittie
and

I. Ioh. 5. 10

Hag. 2. 15.
19.

Mal. 3. 10

Prov. 19. 17

Deut. 38. 2.
14.

Mat. 25.42

and in the field, &c. If men did in good earnest personally, and hypothetically, beleeve and embrace these divine truthes, How could it bee, that men should grudge Almighty God and his worship every farthing which hee requires from them of his owne gifts; that they should dare let the service and house of God lie dumb and naked; that they should shut up their bowels of compassion against their poore brethren, and in them venture to denie Christ himselfe a morsell of bread or a mite of money; that they should neglect the obedience, prophanie the name, word, and worship of God, use all base and unwarrantable arts of getting, and all this out of love of that life, and greedinesse of that gaine, which yet themselves, in their generall subscription to Gods truth, have confessed, will either never bee gotten, or at least never blessed, by such cursed courses? So prodigious a propertie is there in worldly things

things to obliterate all notions of God out of the heart of a man, and to harden him to any impudent abhominations. *I speake unto thee in thy prosperity, saith the Lord, but thou saidst, I will not heare.* According to their pasture, so were they filled, they were filled, and their heart was exalted, therefore have they forgotten mee. Take heed, least when thou hast eaten and art full, thine heart be lifted up, and thou forget the Lord thy God. Therefore it is that wee reade of the Poore rich in faith, and of the Gospell preached to the poore, and revealed unto babes; because greatness and abundance stops the eare, and hardens the heart, and makes men stand at defiance with the simplicitie of the Gospell.

Now then that wee may bee instructed how to use the Creature, as becommeth a dead and impotent thing, wee may make use of these few directions: first, have thine Eye ever upon the Power of God,

C

which

1cr.22.21

Hos.13.6.

Deut.6.10.

11,12.

Deut.8.10.

18.

Iam.2.5.

Matth.11.

5.25

§ 14.

maris tui
et uirio-
per, deponit
autem suis.
Chrysost.
Hom. 2. ad
pop. Antioch.

Hof. 9. 2.

Eccles. 6. 1.
2.

which alone animateth and raiseth the Creature to that pitch of livelihood which is in it, and who alone hath infinite wayes to weaken the strongest, or to arm the weakest Creature against the stoutest sinner. Peradventure thou hast as much lands and possessions, as many sheep and oxen as *Job*, or *Nabal*; yet thou hast not the Lordship of the clouds; God can harden the heavens over thee, hee can send the mildew and canker into thy corne, the rot and murren into thy cartell; though thy barnes bee full of corn, and thy fats overflow with new wine, yet hee can breake the stasse of thy bread. that the flowre and the winepresse shall not feed thee; though thou have a house full of silver and gold, hee can put holes into every bagge, and chinkes into every Cistern, that it shall all sinke away like a winter torrent. God can either deny thee a power and will to enjoy it, and this is as sore a disease as poverty it selfe: or else

else hee can take away thy strength
that thou shalt not relish any of thy
choicest delicates; hee can send a
stone or a gowte that shall make
thee willing to buy with all thy
riches a poore and a dishonourable
heakh; and, which is yet worst of
all, he can open thy conscience, and
let in upon thy Soule that Lyon
which lies at the dore, amaze thee
with the sight of thine owne sinnes,
the historie of thine evill life, the ex-
perience of his terrors, the glimpses
and preoccupations of hell, the e-
vident presumptions of irreconcili-
ation with him; the frenzie of Cain,
the despaire of Indas, the mad-
nessse of Achitophel, the trembling
of Felix, which will damppe all
thy delights, and make all thy
sweetest morsels as the white of an
Egge; at which pineh, however
now thou admire and adore thy
thicke clay, thou wouldest count
it the wisest bargaine thou didst e-
ver make, to give all thy goods to
the poore, to goe bare-foot the

Quantum
libet dele-
ctant jacta-
tia divitie-
rum, & tu-
mor honoris
& vrago
popinarum,
& bella the-
atricorum,
&c. A fest
omnia pa-
una febri-
ula, & ad-
huc viven-
tibus totam
falsam bea-
titudinem
subtrahit;
remanet in-
anis & sau-
cia consci-
entia. Aug.
de Catechiz
Rud.c.16.
Gen.4.7.

whole day with the Prophet *Esay* to dress thy meat with the dung of a man, as the Lord commanded the Prophet *Ezekiel*, to feed with *Mishab* in a dungeon on bread of affliction and water of affliction for many yeares together, that by these or any other meanes thou mightest purchase that inestimable peace, which the whole earth, though changed into a Globe of Gold, or Center of Diamond cannot procure. So utterly unable are all the Creatures in the world to give life, as that they cannot preserve it intire from forraine or Domestick assaults, nor remove those dumps and pressures which do any way disquiet it.

¶ 15.

1.Tim. 44.

Secondly, to remove this *naturall deadnesse* of the Creature, or rather to recompence it by the accession of a Blessing from God, use meanes to reduce it unto its primitive goodness. The Apostle shewes us the way; *Every Creature of God is good, being sanctified by the Word of God and*

& by Prayer. In w^{ch} place, because it is a text than which there are few places of Scripture that come more into dayly and generall use with all sorts of men, it will bee needfull to unfold; 1. What is meant by the sanctification of the Creature. 2. How it is sanctified by the word. 3. - How wee are to sanctifie it to our selves by Prayer.

For the first , The Creature is then sanctified, when the curse and poison which sinne brought upon it is remooved, when wee can use the Creatures with a cleane conscience , and with assurance of a renewed and comfortable estate, in them. It is an Allusion to legall purifications and differences of meates, Levit. 11. No Creature is impure of it selfe, saith the Apostle, in its owne simple created nature : but in as much as the sinne of man forfeited all his interest in the Creature, because *eo ipso* a man is legally dead ; and a condemned man is utterly deprived the right of any

§ 16.

Rom. 14.14

C 3 worldly

Tit. i. 15.

Act. x. 14.

worldly goods (nothing is his *ex iure*, but onely *ex largitate*) and in as much as the sinne of man hath made him, though not a sacrilegious intruder, yet a prophane abuser of the good things which remaine, partly by indirect procuring them, partly by despising the author of them, by mustering up Gods owne gifts against him in riot, luxurie, pride, uncleanenesse, earthly mindednesse, &c. hereby it comes to passe, that *all things are uncleane, because abuser mindes and consciences are defiled.* Now the whole creation being thus by the sinne of man uncleane, and by consequence unfitted for humane use, as Saint Peter intimates, *I never eat any thing common or uncleane,* it was therefore requisite that the Creature should have some Purification, before it was unto men allowed: Which was indeed legally done in the Ceremony, but really in the substance and body of the Ceremony by Christ, who hath

hath now unto us in their use, and will at last for themselves in their owne beeing, deliver the Creatures from that vanitie and malediction, unto which by reason of the sinne of man they were subjected, and fashion them unto *the glorious liberty of the Children of God*, make them fit palaces for the Saints to inhabite, or confer upon them a glory which shall bee in the proportion of their natures a suitable advancement unto them, as the glory of the Children of God shall bee unto them, The bloud of Christ doth not onely renew and purifie the Soule and body of man, but washeth away the curse and dirt which adhereth to every Creature that man useth; doth not onely cleane and sanctifie his Church, but reneweth all the Creatures; Behold, saith hee, *I make all things New*, and if any man bee in Christ, not onely hee is a new Creature, but saith the Apostle, *All things are become New*. Those men then who

Rom. 8, 2
21.

Ephes. 5, 26

Revel. 21, 5

2. Cor. 5, 17

keepe themselves out of Christ, and are by consequence under the Curse, as their persons, so their possessions are stil under the Curse, as their consciences, so their estates are still uncleane ; they eate their meat like Swine roll'd up in dirt, the dirt of their owne sinne , and of Gods malediction. So then the Creature is then sanctified, when the curse thereof is washed away by Christ.

§ 17.

Now secondly, let us see How the Creature is sanctified by the Word

By Word wee are not to understand the Word of Creation, wherin God spake, and all things were made good and serviceable to the use of man. For sinne came after that Word, and defaced as well the goodnessse which God put into the Creature, as his Image which he put into man. But by word I understand, first in general, Gods command and Blessing, which strengtheneth the creature unto those operations for which they serve: in which sense

our

our Saviour useth it, Mat.4.4. and elsewhere, If ye call those Gods unto whom the word of God came, that is, who by Gods authority and Commission are fitted for subordinat ser-
vices of government under him, say
*ye of him whom the Father hath a san-
ctified, that is, to whom the Word of
the Father, & his commission or com-
mand came, to whom the Father
hath given authority by his^b Power
& fitnessse by his^c Spirit to iudge, &
five the world, Thou blasphemest, be-
cause I said, I am the Son of God ? 2.
by that word I understand more par-
ticularly *the fountain of that blessing,*
w^{ch} the Apostle calls in generall the
word of truth, & more particularly,
The Gospel of salvation, & this word
is a sanctifying word; Sanctifie thy
b^r by thy truth, thy word is trut^b: & as it
sanctifies us, so it sanctifies the crea-
tures too, it is the Fountaine not
only of eternall, but of temporall
blessings: therfore Christ did not on-
ly say to the sick of the palsey, thy sins
are forgiven thee, but also, arise &*

C 5 walke,

Ioh. 10.35
36.

^a Heb. 5.5.
Ioh 6.27.
37.40.
Act.4.27.
Ioh. 10.18
^b Ioh.5.22.
27.30.
Mat. 18.18
^c Esa.11.
2.2.4.
Ioh.3.34,
35.

Eph. 1.13.

Ioh. 17.17.

Mat.9.2.6.

1. Tim. 4. 8.
Psal. 37. 25
Heb. 13. 5.

Mat. 6. 33.

walke, intimating, that Temporall Blessings come along with the Gospell, it hath the Promises as well of this life as that to come. I never saw the righteous forsaken, saith the Prophet David, (useable to that of the Apostle to the Hebrewes, Hee hath said, I will never leave thee) nor forsake thee) nor their seed begging their bread; That is, never so wholly by God forsaken, if they were the seed of the righteous, inheritors of their fathers hope and profession, as to make a constant trade of begging their bread, and so to expose the promises of Christ, that they which seeke the kingdome of heaven shall have all other things added to them, unto reproach and imputation from wicked men. Or thus, I never saw the righteous forsaken, or their seed forsaken by God, though they begg'd their bread, but even in that extremitie God was present with them, to sanctifie to their use, and to give them

a comfortable enjoyment of that very bread, which the exigency of their present condition had constrained them to begge. Thus wee see in generall, That the Blessing or Command of God, and the Fountaine of that Blessing, the Gospell of salvation, do sanctifie the Creature.

But yet neither by the Blessing nor the Gospell is the Creature effectually sanctified unto us, till it bee by us apprehended with the Word and Promise, and this is done by Faith; for the Word, saith the Apostle, profited not those that heard it, because it was not mingled or temper'd with Faith. For Faith hath this singular operation, to a particularize and single out God and his Promises unto a mans selfe ; so then the Creature is sanctified by the Word, and Blessing belieued and embraced, wherby wee come to have a neerer right and peculiarity in the Creatures which wee enjoy : for beeing by Faith

Heb. 4. 2.

<sup>α προσειν ει
ιδωντας.</sup>
in 1. Cor.
hom. 2.
Chrysost.

Ephes.3.17
Gal.2.20

Rom.8.17.

Hcb.1.3.

1.Ioh. 1.3.

1.Cor.3.21

23.

Rom.8.32.

Aug.epist.89

Faith united unto Christ and made one with him (which is that noble effect of faith to incorporate Christ and a Christian together) wee thereby share with him in the inheritance, not onely of Eternall life, but even of the common Creatures: fellow heires we are and copartners with him ; therefore in as much as God hath appointed him to bee heire of all things, as the Apostle speaks, wee likewise, in the vertue of our fellowship with him, must in a subordinate sense be Heires of all things too. *All is yours,* saith the Apostle, and you are Christs, and Christ is Gods. *Fidelibus suis mundus divitiarum est;* The Saints, saith Saint Austin, have all the world for their possession. And if it be here demanded how this can be true, since wee finde the Saints of God often in great want, and it would doubtlesse bee sinne in them to usurpe another mans goods upon presumption of that promise that Christ is theirs, and with him all things :

things: to this I answer, first in general; As Christ though he were the Heire of all things, yet for our sakes became poore, that wee by his povertie might be made rich: so God oftentimes pleaseth to make the faithfull partake not onely in the priviledges, but in the povertie of Christ, that even by that meanes they may bee rich in faith and dependance upon God, as S. James spake, *Having nothing, and yet possessing All things.* 2. All is ours in regard of Christian liberty, though our hands are bound from the possession, yet our consciences are not bound from the use of any. Thirdly, though the faithfull have not in the right of their inheritance any monopoly or ingrossement of the creatures to themselves, yet stil they have & shall have the service of them all. That is thus: if it were possible for any member of Christ to stand absolutely in need of the use & service of the whole creation, all the creatures in the world should surely wait upō him, &

2.Cor.8.9.

Iam.1.5.
2.Cor.6.10

and bee appropriated unto him. The Moone should stand still, the Sunne goe backe, the Lious should strop their mouthes, the fire should give over burning, the Ravens should bring him meat, the Heavens should raine downe bread, the Rockes should gush out with water, all the Creatures should muster up themselves to defend the Body of Christ. But though no such absolute necessity shall ever bee, yet ordinarily wee must learne to beleeve, That those things which God allows us are best suitable to our particular estate, God knowing us better than wee doe our selves : that as lesse would happily make us repine, so more would make us full, and lift up our hearts against God, and set them on the world ; so that All is ours , not absolutely , but subordinately, serviceably according to the exigence of our condition, to the proportion of our faith and furtherance of our salvation .

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The third particular inquired into was, *How wee doe by Prayer sanctifie the Creature to our selves?* This is done in these three courses : I. *In procuring them.* We ought not to set about any of our lawfull and just callings without a particular addressing our selves unto God in Prayer. This was the practice of good *Eleazar Abrahams* servant, when hee was employed in finding out a wife for his masters sonne, * *O Lord God of my master Abraham, I pray thee send me good speed this day;* and this also was the practice of good *Nehemiah* in the distresses of his people, * *I prayed unto the God of Heaven, and then I spake unto the king.* And surely the very heathen themselves shall in this point rise up in judgement against many prophane Christians, who looke oftner upon their gold than upon their God, as *Salvius* speakes. Wee reade often in their writings, that in any

§ 19.

* Gen. 24.

12.

* Nehem.

2.4.

generall

^a Morbis
traffantibus
vel prodigiis
is nunciatiss
Pacem De-
ūn exposci
moris erat,
vide Briffo
de Form. lib.
1. p. 81. e-
dit. 1592.

^b Plin. Pa-
negyr. Bene-
ic sapien-
ter majores
infine-
runt ut re-
rum agen-
derum, ita
dicendi ini-
tium à Pre-
cacionibus
capere, &c.
Sueton. in
Aug. ca. 35

vide Briffo. de Form. lib. 1. pag. 42. Et Coquai commen-
taria in Aug. de Civit. Dei. lib. 2. cap. 8. num. 2.

^c Livius lib. 26. A. Gel. noſt. Artic. 1. 7. c. 1. Cuius ab Ado-
lescentia vita describitur Dñis dedita, templisque nutrita.
Aug. de Civit. Dei. l. 3. cap. 21.. d Eph. 6. 18 v 1. Thes-
s. 17. Phil. 4. 6.

general Calamitie they did ioyntly implore the peace and favour of their idolatrous gods; that in any matter of consequence they made their entrie upon it by Prayer, commanding the successe thereof to the power and providence of those Deities which they beleaved. Insomuch that wee reade of ^c Pnb. Scipio a great Romane, that hee ever went to the Capitoll before to the Senate, and began all the busnes- ses of the common-wealth with Prayer. How much more then ought wee to doe it, who have not onely the Law and dictate of Nature to guid us, who have no deafe and impotent idols to direct our Prayers to, as their gods were; but have first, The Law of Christ, requiring it; ^d Pray Alwaies. Pray.

wishous

without ceasing. In every thing by Prayer and Supplication with Thanksgiving, let your requests bee made knowne to God. Who have secondly, the Example of Christ to enforce it, for not onely ^aMorning and ^bEvening was it his ^cCu-stome to Pray: but upon every other solemne occasion. As for example, before his ^dPreaching, before his ^eEating, before the ^fElection of his Disciples, before his ^gTransfiguration in the mount, ^hbefore and ⁱin his Passion: who have thirdly from Christ That Legiti-mate, Ordinary, Fundamentall Prayer, as ^kTertullian calls it, The Lords Prayer, as a Rule and Di-rectorie by him framed to instruct us how to Pray, and to bound and confine our extravagant and vast desires; Who lastly have also the Altar of Christ to receive, the Incense of Christ to perfume, the Name and Intercession of Christ to present our Prayers unto God by, who have Christ sanctifying, and,

^aMar.1.35

^bMat.14.

^cLuk 22.

^d39.

^eMark.1.

^f35.38.

^gMarke 6.

^h41.

ⁱLuk.6.12

^j13.

^lLuk.9.28

^mMatth.

ⁿ26.36.

^oIoh.17.1.

^pHeb.5.7.

^qTertul. de

^rorat.c.9.

Rev. 8. 3. 4.

Exod. 28.
38.

Rom. 8. 34,

as I may so speake , Praying our prayers unto his Father for us ; as wee reade of the Angell of the covenant, who had *a golden Censer and much incense*, to offer up the Prayers of the Saints, which was nothing else but the mediation of Christ bearing *the iniquitie of our holy things*, as *Aaron* was appointed to doe ; nothing but his intercession for us at the right hand of his Father. I say, how much more reason have wee, than any Gentle could have , to consecrate all our enterprises with Prayer unto God ? Humbly to acknowledge how justly hee might blast all our busineses, and make us labour in the fire; that unlesse hee keep the City, the watchman watcheth but in vaine ; that unlesse hee build the house, their labour is in vaine that build it ; that unlesse hee give the increase, the planting of *Paul*, and the watering of *Apollo* are but empie breath ; that it is onely his blessing on the diligent hand which maketh

maketh rich without any sorrow ;
that unlesse hee bee pleased to fa-
vour our attempts, neither the
plotting of our heads, nor the so-
licitousnesse of our hearts, nor the
drudgerie of our hands, nor the
whole concurrence of our created
strength, nor any other assistances
which wee can procure, will bee
able to bring to passe the other-
wise most obvious and feasible E-
vents : and therefore to implore his
Direction in all our Counsels, his
concurrence with all our Actions,
his blessing on all our undertakings,
and his glory as the sole end of
all that wee are to doe. For by
this meanes wee doe first acknow-
ledge our dependencie on God as
the first cause, and give him the
glory of his soveraigne Power and
Dominion over all second agents,
in acknowledging that without
him wee can doe nothing, and the
power of God is the ground of
prayer. Secondly, by this meanes
wee put God in minde of his pro-
mises,

a 2. Chron.
20.6.
2. Chron.
14.11.
Math. 8.2.
Ezay 43.26

Dan. 9. 1.
2. 3.

2. Chron.
20. 9.

2. Sam. 7. 27
28. 29.

mises, and so acknowledge not our dependance on his power only, but on his Truth and goodness too: & the promises and truth of God are the foundation of all our prayers. That which encouraged *Daniel* to set his face to seeke unto God in prayer for the restitution of liberty out of Babylon, was Gods promise and truth revealed by *Jeremy* the Prophet, that he would accomplish but 70. yeares in the desolation of Jerusalem. That which encouraged *Iehosaphat* to seeke unto God against the multitude of Moabites which came up against him, was his promise that he would heare & helpe those that did pray towards his house in their affliction. That which encouraged *David* to pray unto God for the stability of his house, was the covenant and truth of God, *Thou hast revealed so thy servant*, saying, *I will build thee an house*; therefore hath thy servant found in his heart to pray this prayer unto thee. And now, O Lord, thou art that God,

God, that is, the same God in thy fidelity & mercy, as then thou wert, and thy words be true, and thou hast promised this goodness to thy servant therefore let it please thee to bless the house of thy servant, &c. Excellent to this purpose is that which S. Austin observes of his mother, who very often and earnestly prayed unto God for her son when hee was an Hereticke, *Chirographa tua ingenerab tibi Lord, saith he, she urg'd thee with thine owne handwriting, shew challenged in an humble and fearefull confidence the performance of thine owne obligations.* Thirdly and lastly, by this meanes wee hasten the performance of Gods decreed mercies; wee retardate, yea quite hinder his almost purposed and decreed Judgements. The Lord had resolved to restore Israel to their wonted peace and honor, yet for all these things will I be inquired unto by the house of Israel to do it for the, saith he in the Prophet. The Lord had threatened destruction against Israel for their Idolatry,

Aug. confes.
Ls. 5.9.

Ezek. 36.
37.

Psal. 106.

*Iust. Mart.
Apolog.
Tertul. 4.
pol. c. 5.*

§ 20.

Ecccl. 5. 19.

try, had not Moses stood before him in the breach to turne away his wrath, as the Psalmist speakes. And wee reade of the Primitive Christians, that their prayers procured raine from heaven, when the Armies of the Emperours were even famished for want of water, and that their very persecutors have begg'd their prayers.

Secondly, as by Prayer the Creature is sanctified in the procurement (for no man hath reason to beleeve that there is any blessing intended unto him by God in any of the good things which doe not come in unto him by Prayer) so in the next place the Creature is by Prayer sanctified in the fruition thereof; because, to enjoy the portion allotted us, and to rejoice in our labour, is the gift of God, as Salomon speaks. The Creature of it selfe is not onely Dead, and therfore unable to minister life by it selfe alone, but, which is worse, by the meane of mans sinne, it is Deadly too,

too, and therefore apt to poison the receivers of it, without the corrective of Gods Grace. Pleasure is a thing in it selfe lawfull ; but corruption of nature is apt to make a man a lover of pleasure, more than a lover of God, and then is that mans pleasure made unto him the Metropolis of mischiefe, as *Clemens Alexandrinus* speaks. A good name is better than sweet ointment, and more to be desired than much riches ; but corruption is apt to put a flye of vaine-glory and selfe-affection into this ointment, to make a man foolishly feed upon his owne credit, and with the Pharisees to doe all for applause, and preferre the praise of men before the glory of God : and then our sweet oyntment is degenerated into a curse ; *Woe bee unto you, when all men shall speake well of you.* Riches of themselves are the good gifts and blessings of God, as *Solomon* saith, *The blessing of the Lord makes rich, but corruption is apt to*

2 Tim. 3.4.

Eccl. 7.1.
Prov. 22.1Mar. 23.5
Ioh 5.44.
12.43.

Luk. 6.26.

to breed by this meanes covetousnesse, pride, selfe-dependency, forgetfulness of God, scorne of the Gospell, and the like; and then these earthly blessings are turned into the curse of the earth, into Thornes and Briers, as the Apostle speakes, *They that wil be rich, pierce themselves thorow with many sorowes.* Learning in it selfe is an honourable and a noble endowment; it is recorded for the glory of *Moses*, that he was learned in all the wisedome of the Egyptians: but corruption is apt to turne learning into leaven, to infect the heart with pride, which being armed and seconded with wit breakes forth into perverse disputes, and corrupts the minde. Therefore Saint *Pau* advised the Christians of his time, to beware lest any man spoile them through *Philosophy*, and beguile them with entising words. And the ancient Fathers counted the ^a Philosophers the Seminaries of heresie. Prooife whereof, to let passe the

Antitri-

I. Tim. 6. 10.

Act. 7. 22.

Col. 2. 4. 8.
a Tertul. de prescrip.
c. 7. de I do latr. c. 10.
Hieron. con.
tr. Lucifer cum presat.
Erasmi. vid.
Pet. Erodi-
um. Decret.
l. i. Tit. 6.
ff. 2. Hook. J.
5 ff. 2.

Antitrinitarians and Pelagians, and other antient Heretickes, who out of the nicenesse of a quaint wit perverted Gods truth to the patronage of their lyes; and to passe by the Schoolemen and Iesuites of late ages, who have made the way to heaven a very labyrinth of crooked subtleties, and have weav'd Divinitie into Cobwebs: we may have abundantly in those Libertines and Cyrenians, who disputed with Stephen, and those Stoicks that wrangled with Saint Paul about the resurrection. And now learning being thus corrupted is not onely turned into weariness, but into very notorious & damnable folly, *for thinking themselves wise, saith the Apostle, they became fooles, and their folly shall be made knowne unto all men.* To get wealth in an honest and painefull Calling is a great blessing: for the diligent hand maketh rich; but corruption is apt to persuade unto cozenage, lying, equivocation, false weights, ingrossements,

b See Rey.
nolds Con-
fer. with
Hart.c.2.
divis.3.p.72
Act. 6. and
17.
Eccl. 13.32.
Rom. 1.22
2. Tim. 3.9

Deut. 25.
14, 16.
Prov. 20.
10. 23.
Prov. 21. 6.

ments, monopolies and other arts of cruekie and injustice, and by this meanes our lawfull callings are turned into abhominations, mysteries of iniquity, and a pursuit of death. Every Creature of God is good in it selfe, and allowed both for necessity and delight; but Corruption is apt to abuse the creatures to luxurie and excessse, to drunkennesse, gluttony and inordinat lusts, and by this meanes a mans *table is turned into a snare*, as the Psalmist speaks. Now then, since all the world is thus bespread with ginnes, it mainly concernes us alwayes to pray, that wee may use the world as not abusing it, that we may enjoy the Creatures with such wisdom, temperance, sobriety, heavenly affections, as may make them as so many ascents to raise us neerer unto God, as so many glasses in which to contemplate the wise-dome, providence, and care of God to men, as so wany witnessses of his love, and of our duty. And thus

thus doth prayer sanctifie the creature in the use of it.

Lastly, and in one word, Prayer sanctifies the Creatures in the review and recognition of them, and Gods mercie in them, with thanksgiving and thoughts of prayse, as *Jacob*, Gen. 32.9, 10. and *David*, 2. Sam, 7. 18. 21. looked upon God in the blessings with which hee had blessed them. And now since Prayer doth thus sanctifie the creatures unto us, wee should make friends of the unrighteous Mammon, that we may by that means get the prayers of the poore Saints upon us and our estate, that the eye which seeth us may blesse us, and the eare that heareth us may give witnesse to us; that the loynes and the mouthes, the backes and the bellies of the poore and faterlesse may be as so many reall supplications unto God for us.

§ 21.

The third and last direction which I shall give you to finde life in the Creature, shall bee to looke

§ 22.

D 2 on

on it, and love it in its *right order*, with subordination to God and his promises; to love it after God, and for God, as the beame which conveys the influences of life from him; as his instrument, moved and moderated by him to those ends for which it serves; to love it as the Cisterne, not as the Fountaine of life; to make Christ the foundation, and all other things but as accessions unto him. Otherwise if wee love it either alone, or above Christ, however it may by Gods providence keepe our breath a while in our nostrils, and fatten us against the last day, yet impossible it is, that it should ever minister the true and solid comforts of life unto us, *which consisteth not in the abundance of things which a man possesseth*, as our Saviour speaks. Life goes not upward, but downeward, the inferiour derives it not on the superiour; therefore by placing the Creature in our estimation above Christ, wee deny unto it any influence

*In cofundamentum non est
Christus, cui cetera praeponuntur.*
Aug. de Civ.
Dei. I. 21.
c. 26.
Luk. 12.15

influence of livelyhood from him, whom yet in words wee professe to bee the fountaine of life. But men will object and say; This is a needlesse caution not to preferre the Creature before the Creator, as if any man were so impious and absurd. Surely Saint Paul tells us, that *men without faith are impious and absurd men*, who doe in their affections and practices as undoubtedly undervalue Christ, as the Gadarens that preferred their swine before him. What else did *Esaus*, when for a messe of pottage he sold away his birth-right, which was a privilege that led to Christ? What else did the people in the wildernes, who despised the holy Land, which was the type of Christ's kingdome, and in their hearts turned backe to Egypt? What els did those wicked Israelites, who polluted the Table of the Lord, and made his Altar contemptible, which was a type of Christ? What else did *Iudas* and the Iewes, who sold and

D 3 bought

2. Thes. 3. 2

*Mulier non
a christi u-
nitate, sed
a suis com-
modis no-
lunt recede-
re. Aug. de
Bapt. li. 4.
ccp. 10.*

Mark. 5. 17
Psal. 106.

24.
Act. 7. 39.
Mal. 1. 7.
Zech. 11.
12.

*Vti volunt
Deo ut fru-
antur mun-
do. aug. de
Civ. Dei.
l.15.c.7.*

bought the Lord of glory for the price of a beast? What else do daily those men, who make Religion serve turnes, and godlineesse wait upon gaine? who creepe into houses with a forme of pietie, to seduce unstable soules, and plucke off their feathers to make themselves a nest? The Apostles rule is generall, that *sensual and earthly minded men are all the enemies of the Crosse of Christ* Phil. 3.18.19.

The third and last disproportion betweene the soule of Man and the Creature arising from the *vanity* thereof, is in regard of *duration* and continuance. Man is by nature a provident Creature, apt to lay up for the time to come, and that disposition should reach beyond the forecast of the Foole in the Gospell for many yeares, even for ~~immortalitie~~ it selfe. For certainly there is no man who hath but the generall notions of corrupted reason alive within him, who hath not his conscience quite vitiated,

ted, and his minde putrified with noysome lusts, who is not wrapped up in the mud of thicke ignorance, and palpable stupiditie, but must of necessitie have oftentimes the immediate representations of immortality before his eyes. Let him never so much smother and supprese the truth, let him with all the Art hee can divert his conceits, and intangle his thoughts in secular cares let him shut his eye lids as close as his naile is to his flesh, yet the flashes of immortality are of so penetrative and searching a nature, that they will undoubtedly get through all the obstacles, which a mind not wholly overdawb'd with worldlinesse & ignorance can put between. Therefore the Apostle useth that for a strong argument, why rich men should not trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, and should bee rich in good workes, *That so, saith hee, they may lay up in store a good foundation against the time to come, that they may lay hold*

Amos.3.10
Iam.5.3.

Prov.8.18

I.Pet.1.18
Iam.5.2.

Psal.55.19

on eternall life, 1 Tim. 6. 17, 19.
Wicked men indeed lay up in store,
but it is not riches, *but wrath*, even
violence and oppression against the
last day. But by trusting God, and
doing good, a man layes up *durable*
Riches, as the wise Man speakes ;
in which respect he presently addes,
That the fruit of wisedome is better
than Gold. For though Gold bee
of all mettalls the most solid, and
therefore least subject to decay, yet
it is not immortall and durable ri-
ches ; for the Apostle telles us, that
Silver and Gold are *Corruptible*
things, and that there is *a rust and*
canker which eateth up the Gold
and Silver of wicked men. I con-
fesse the hearts of many men are so
glewed unto the world, especially
when they finde all things succeed
prosperously with them, that they are
apt enough to set up their rest, and
to conceite a kinde of stedfastnesse
in the things they possesse. *Because*
they have no changes, saith the Pro-
phet David, *therefore they feare not*
God:

God: But yet I say, where the Lord doth not wholly give a man over to heape up treasures unto the last day, to bee eaten up with the canker of his owne wealth, the soule must of necessity sometime or other happen upon such sad thoughts as these: What ailes my foolish heart thus to eate up it selfe with care, and to robbe mine eies of their beloved sleepe for such things, as to the which the time will come when I must bid an everlasting farewell? Am I not a poore mortall Creature, brother to the Wormes, sister to the Dust? Doe I not carry about with me a soule full of corruptions, a skinne full of Diseases? Is not my breath in my nostrils, where there is roome enough for it to goe out, and possibility never to come in againe? Is my flesh of brasie, or my bones of iron, that I should think to hold out, and without interruption to enjoy these earthly things? Or if they were, yet are not the creatures themselves subject

to period and mortalitie ? is there not a moth in my richest garments, a Werme in my tallest Cedars, a Canker and rust in my firms ? Gold to corrupt and eat it out ? Or if not, wil there not come a day, when the whole frame of Nature shall bee set on fire, and the Elements themselves shall melt with heat, when that universall flame shall devoure all the bagges, and lands and offices, and honours, and treasures, and store-houses of worldly men ? When Heaven and Hell shall divide the world ; Heaven, into which nothing can bee admitted which is capable of Moth or rust to corrupt it, and Hell, into which if any such things could come, they would undoubtedly in one instant bee swallowed up in those violent and unextinguishable flames. And shall I bee so foolish as to put my felicitie in that which will faile me, when I shall stand in greatest need, to heape up treasures into a broken bagge, to worke in the fire where

all

all must perish? Certainly the soule of a meere worldly man, who can-not finde God or Christ in the things hee enjoyes, must of neces-sitie bee so farre from reaping solid or constant comfort from any of these perishable Creatures, that it cannot but ake and tremble, but be wholly surprised with dismal pas-sions, with horrid preapprehensions of its owne wofull estate, upon the evidence of the Creatures morta-litic, and the unavoideable flashes and conviction of its own everlast-ingnesse.

Now if wee consider the vari-ous rootes of this corruption in the Creature, it will then further ap-peare unto us, that they are not on-ly mortall, but even momentarie and vanishing :

First, by the Law of their Crea-tion they were made subjeēt to al-terations, there was an enmitie and reluctance in their entirest be-ing.

Secondly, this hath been excee-dingly

§ 24.

dingly improved by the sinne of man, whose evill, being the Lord of all Creatures, must needs redound to the misery and mortalitie of all his retinue. For it was in the greater World, as in the administration of a privat family; the povertie of the Master is felt in the bowels of all the rest, his stain and dishonour runnes into all the members of that societie. As it is in the naturall body some parts may bee distempered and ill-affected alone, others not without contagion on the rest; a man may have a dimme eye, or a withered arme, or a lame foot, or an impedit tongue without any danger to the parts adioyning; but a lethargie in the head, or an obstruction in the liver, or a dyspepsie and indisposition in the stomacke diffuseth universall malignity through the body, because these are soveraigne and architectonicall parts of man: so likewise is it in the great and vast body of the Creation. However other Creatures

tures might have kep: their evill, if any had been in them, within their owne bounds, yet that evill which man, the Lord and head of the whole brought into the world, was a spreading and infectious evill, which conveyed poysen into the whole frame of Nature, and planted the seed of that universall dissolution which shall one day deface with darkenesse and horrour the beautie of that glorious frame which we now admire. It is sayd, that when *Corah, Dathan and Abiram* had provoked the Lord by their rebellion against his servants to infliet that fearefull destruction upon them, the earth opened her mouth and swallowed not onely thein up, but *all the houses, and men and goods that appertained to them.* Now in like maner the heaven and earth and all inferiour Creatures did at first appertaine to *Adam:* the Lord gave him the free use of them, and dominion over them: when therefore man had committed

Numb. 16.
32.

mitted that notorious rebellion against his maker, which was not onely to aspire like *Corab* and his associates to the height and principalitie of some fellow Creature, but even to the absolutenesse, wisdome, power and independency of God himselfe, no marvell if the wrath of God did together with him seaze upon his house, and all the goods that belonged unto him, bringing in that confusion and disorder which we even now see doth breake asunder the bonds and ligaments of nature, doth unjoynt the confederacies and societies of the dumbe Creatures, and turneth the Armies of the Almighty into mutinies and commotion, which in one word hath so fast manacled the world in the *bondage of corruption*, as that it doth already groane and linger with paine under the sinne of man and the curse of God, and will at last breake forth into that universal flame which will melt the very Elements of Nature into their primitive

Rom.8.21.

2.Pet.3.10.

primitiye confusion. Thus wee see besides the created limitednesse of the Creature, by which it was utterly unsuteable to the immortall desires of the soule of man, the sinne of man hath implanted in them a secret worm and rottennesse which doth set for ward their mortalitie, &c by adding to them confusion, enmity, disproportion , sedition, inequalitie (all the seeds of corruption) hath made them, not onely as before they were, mortall, but which addes one mortalitie to another, even momentary and vanishing too. When any Creature loseth any of its native and created vigour, it is a manifest signe that there is some secret sentence of death gnawing upon it. The excellency of the Heavens we know is their light, their beauty, their influences upon the lower World, and even these hath the sin of man defaced. Wee finde when the Lord pleaseth to reveale his wrath against men for sinne in any terrible manner,

Aristot. pol. l. 5. cap. 1. 10.

Rom. 1. 18.

Iocl. 2. 30.

Zeph. 1. 15

Psal. 11. 6.

Psal. 18. 12

Ier. 4. 23.

28.

Esa. 13. 10.

Euseb. hist.

1. 3. cap. 8. &

Iosepb. de

bello Iudaic.

co. 1. 7. c. 12.

ner, hee doth it from Heaven; There shall bee wonders in the Heaven, bloud and fire, and pillars of smoke: the Sunne shall be turned into darkenesse, and the Moone into blood; and the day of the Lord is called a day of darkenesse and gloominess, and thicke darkenesse. How often hath Gods heavie displeasure declared it selfe from Heaven in the confusion of nature? in stormes and horrible tempests? in thicke clouds and darke waters? In arrowes of lightning and coales of fire? in blackenesse and darkenesse? In brimstone on Sodome, in a flaming sword over Ierusalem, in that fearefull Star of fire to the Christian World of late yeres, which hath kindled those wofull combustions, the flames whereof are still so great as that wee our selves, if wee looke upon the merits and provocations of our sinnes, may have reason to feare that not all the Sea betweene us and our neighbours can bee able to quench till it have scorched and singed

singed us? Wee finde likewise by plaine experience how languide the seedes of life, how faint the vigor either of heavenly influences, or of sublunarie and inferiour agents are growne, when that life of men, which was wont to reach to almost a thousand yeares, is esteemed even a miraculous age, if it bee extended but to the tenth part of that duration. Wee need not examine the inferiour Creatures, which wee finde expresselly cursed for the sinne of man with Thornes and Briers (the usuall expression of a curse in Scripture.) If wee but open our eyes and looke about us, we shall see what paines Husbandmentake to keepe the earth from giving up the Ghost, in opening the veines thereof, in applying their Soyle and Marle as so many Pills or Salves, as so many Cordialls and preservatives to keep it alive, in laying it a sleepe, as it were, when it lyeth fallow every second or third yeaer, that by any meanes they may

Gen.3. 17
18.
Hos.10.8.
Esa.34. 13

may preserve in it that life, which they see plainly approaching to its last gaspe.

§ 25.

Ier.43.8,
13.

Esa.30.23.

Thus you see how besides the originall liimitednesse of the Creature, there is in a second place a Moth or Canker by the infection of sinne begotten in them, which hastens their mortalitie, God ordering the second causes so among themselves, that they exercising enmitie one against another, may punish the sinne of man in their contentions, as the Lord stirred up the Babylonians against the Egyptians to punish the sinnes of his owne people. And therefore wee finde, that the times of the Gospel, when holiness was to bee more universall, are expressed by such figures as restore perfection and peace to the Creatures. *The earth shall be fat and plenteous, there shall bee upon every high hill Rivers and Streames of water, the light of the Moone shall be as the light of the Sunne, and the light of the Sunne*

seaven-

seaven-fold, as the light of seven
dayes. And againe, the Wolfe shall
dwell with the Lambe, and the Leo-
pard shall lie downe with the kid, and
a Calfe, and a young Lion, and a fat-
ling together, &c. Which places,
though figuratively to bee under-
stood, have yet mee thinkes thus
much of the letter in them, to as-
sure that whatever blemish since
the Creation any of those glorious
heavenly bodies are either in them-
selves, or by interposition of fog-
gy vapours subiect unto, whate-
ver enmitis and destructive qua-
lities enrage one beast against ano-
ther, they are all of them the con-
sequents of that sinne, which no-
thing can remove but the Gospel of
Christ. And this is that universall
contagion which runneth through
the whole frame of Nature,
into the bowels of every Crea-
ture.

But yet further, in a third place,
there is a particular ground of this
mortality to many men, namely
the

Esa. 11. 6. 7.
Ioel 3. 18.
Amos 9. 13

§ 26.

the Particular curse upon that place or creature which men enjoy. For as a piece of Oke besides the naturall corruptibleness of it, as it is a body compounded of contrary principles, whereby it would of it selfe at last returne to its dust againe, may further have a worme like *Jonah* his Gourd eating out the heart of it, and by that meanes hastening its corruption : and yet further besides that may be presently put into the fire, which will make a more speedy riddance than either of the former : or as in the body of a man, besides the generall consumption, which lingringly feedeth upon the whole, each particular member may have a particular disease which may serve to hasten that corruption to it selfe, which the other threatens to the whole: so may it bee, and often is in the Creatures of God , Besides their naturall finitenesse , and their generall bondage of corruption , which by a hidden and insensible

insensible insinuation doth emasculate the vigour and strength of the Creatures, there may bee a particular Curse, which may serve speedily to hasten that decay, which, without any such concurrence, would have made haste enough to leave the possessors of them in everlasting penurie. *I will be unto Ephraim as a Moth, and to the house of Iuda, as rotteneſſe,* saith the Lord. That is Gods first Instrument of mortalitie, whereby he will certainly, though indeed lingringly, consume a thing. But now if for all this when the Moth secretly consumes him, so that hee seeth his sickenesse and feeleth his wound, hee will yet truſt in his owne counſels and confederacies, ſacrifice to his owne net, goe to Affyria or King Iareb for succour, *I will then bee unto Ephraim as a Lyon,* in a more ſudden and swift deſtruction. As hee dealeth thus with men, ſo with the things about them too, first hee puts a Moth into them,

rust

Quodcumque nunc
nascitur
mundi ipsius ſenectus
te degenerat, ut ne-
mo mirari
debeat ſingula in
mundo cœ-
piffe defice-
re, cum to-
tus ipfe jam
mundus in
defectione
ſit. Cypris-
an. cont.
Dem.
Hos. 5. 12.

Prov. 23.5
Eccl. 5.12.

Hag. 1.6.

Hos. 9.11.

rust in our Gold, canker in our Silver, heartlessenesse in our earth, faintnesse in the influences of heaven; and if notwithstanding all this men will still trust in the Cistern, God will put holes into it too, which shall make it runne out as fast as they fill it; hee will give wings to their money, encrease the occasions of expence: & if they clip their wings, that they flie not away, he wil make holes in the bottom of their bags, that they shall drop away: hee will not onely send a Moth and rust which shall in time eate them out, but hee will send a Thefe upon them too, which shall suddenly breakethrough and carry them away. So many steppes and gradations are there in the mortallity of the Creature, when God pleatheth to adde his Curse unto them for sinne. *As for Ephraim, saith the Lord, their Glory shall flic away like a Bird, from the birth, and from the wombe, and from the conception.*

Observe

Observe the gradations of morta-
lity in the best blessings wee enjoy,
in our very glory, namely, our chil-
dren, which are called an inheri-
tance and reward to take away
shame from their parents. They
shal flic away like a bird, that notes
the swiftnesse of the Iudgement, &
that first from the birth; as soone
as they are borne, the murtherer
shall destroy them: yea, from the
wombe; before they be born they
shall perish, nothing of them shall
be enjoyed but the hope, and if that
be too much, here is a degree as low
as can be, from the very conception
they shall miscarry and prove ab-
ortive. *I will smite the winter house*
and the Summer house, the houses of
Ivorie and the great houses shall have
an end. If the Lord undertake to
smite, if hee send abroad the fire of
his wrath, it shall seaze on those
palaces and great houses which
men thought should have indured
unto all generations. For that *Fly-*
ing role, importing Iudgement de-
creed,

Psal. 127.
35.

Amos 3.15

Amos 1.4.
Psal. 49.11

Zach. 5.4.

Levir. 14.
35.55.

Iam.5.1.

Habak.2.

6.7.

Prov.10.3.
Iob.20.28.

creed, and sudden, which was sent over the whole earth against the Thiefe and the Swearer, did not onely smite the man, but his house, and like a leprosie consume the very timber and stones thereof. Therfore wee read in the Leviticall law of leprosies, not in men onely, but in houses, and garments, intimating unto us, That sinne derives a contagion upon any thing that is about us, and like Ivie in a wall, or that wilde *Caprificus*, will get rooting in the very substance of the stone in the wall, and break it asunder. Whatever it is that men can finde out under the Sunne to fasten their hearts upon for satisfaction and comfort, this leprosie will defile it, and eat it out. If silver and gold, besides their secret rust and proper corruption, the Lord can make the thiefe rise up suddenly, and bite the possessors, and so unlade them of their thicke clay: if Reall substance and encrease, the Lord casteth away faith the wise man, the substance of the

the wicked, and the increase of his house, saith Job, shall depart and flow away. If greatnesse and high places, the Lord can put ice under their feet, make their places slippery, and subject to a momentary desolation: If a great name and glory, the Lord cannot onely suffer time and ignorance to draw out all the memory of a man, but can presently rot his name from under heaven: If Corne and the fruits of the Earth, the Lord can kill it in the blade by with holding raine three moneths before the Harvest: He can send a thiefe, a caterpiller, a Palmerworm to eat it up. If it hold out to come into the barn, even there he can blow upon it, and consume it like chaffe. However men thinke, when they have their corn in their houses, and their wine in their cellars, they are sure, & have no more to doe with God, yet he can take away the staffe & life of it in our very houses, Yea, when it is in our mouths & bowels, he can send leanness & a curse af-

Psal.73.18
19.

Prov.10.7

Amos 4.7.

Vers.9.

Psal.78.30
31.

E ter

Joel.1.5.

Habak.2.

16.

Isai.51.17.

22.

Ezek.23.

33.

Ier.25. 16.

27.

Esai.62. 8.

2.Thes.1.9.

ter it. *Awake ye Drunkards, and howle ye drinkers of wine,* saith the Prophet, because of the new wine, for it is cut off from your mouthes. The Lord could deferre the punishment of these men till the last day, when undoubtedly there will bee nothing for them to drinke but that *Cup of the Lords right hand,* as the Prophet calls it : a cup of fury and trembling, a cup of sorrow, astonishment, and desolation ; a cup which shall make all that drinke thereof to be moved and mad, to be drunken and fall, and spue, and rise up no more, even that fierce and bitter indignation, in the powring out of which the Lord shall put to his right hand, his strong arme, not onely the terror of his presence, but the glory of his power : I say the Lord could let drunkards alone till at last they meet with this Cup, (which undoubtedly they shall doe, if there bee either truth in Gods word, or power in his right hand, if there be either Justice in heaven, or fire in hell)

till with *Belsazar* they meet
with dregges and trembling in the
bottome of all their cups : but yet
oftentimes the Lord smites them
with a more sudden blow, snatcheth
away the cup from their very
mouthes, and so makes one curse
anticipate and prevent another.
Though *Haman* and *Achisopel*
should have lived out the whole
third of their life, yet at last their
honour must have laine downe in
the duft with them : Though *Iudas*
could have lived a thousand yeares,
and could have improved the re-
ward of his Masters bloud to the
best advantage that ever Usurer did,
yet the rust would at last have sci-
zed upon his bagges, and his mon-
me must have perished with him :
but now the Lord sets forward his
Curse, and that which the moth
would have been long in doing, the
gallowes dispatcheth with a more
swift destruction. Thus as the bo-
dy of a man may have many sum-
mons and engagements unto one

E 2 death,

death, may labour at once under many desperate diseases, all which by a malignant conjunction must needs hasten a mans end (as Cesar was stabd with thirty wounds, each one whereof might have served to let out his soule) so the Creatures of God labouring under a manifold corruption, doe as it were by so many wings post away from the owners of them, and for that reason must needs bee utterly disproportional to the condition of an Immortall Soule.

§ 28.

Now to make some application of this particular before we leave it: This doth first discover and shame the folly of wicked worldlings, both in their opinions and affections to earthly things. Love is blinde and will easilie make men beleeve that of any thing which they could wish to bee in it : and therefore, because wicked men wish with all their hearts, for the love they beare to the Creatures, that they might continue together for

for ever, the Devil doth at last so deeply delude them as to thinke that they shall continue for ever. Indeed in these and in the generall, they must needs confess that one generation commeth, and another goeth: but in their owne particular they can never assure with any feeling and experimentall assest the much of that generall to their owne estates: and therefore what-ever for shame of the world their outward professions may bee, yet the Prophet David affirms us, *That their inward Thoughts, their owne retired contrivances and resolutions are, that their houses shall indure for ever, and their dwelling places to all generations;* and upon this Immortality of stones and monuments they resolve to rest. But the Psalmist concludes this to bee but brutish and notorious folly, *This their way is their folly, they like sheep are layed downe in their graves, and death feeds upon them.* And indeed what a folly is it for men to build

Eccl.1.4.

Psal.49.11

upon the sand, to erect an Imaginative fabricke of I know not what Immortalitie, which hath not so much as a constant subsistence in the head that contrives it? What man will ever goe about to build a house with much cost (and when he hath done to inhabit it himselfe) of such rotten and inconsistent materialls, as will undoubtedly within a yeare or two after fall up on his head, and bury him in the ruines of his owne folly? Now then suppose a man were Lord of all the world, and had his life coextended with it, were furnished with wisedome to manage, and strength to runne through all the affaires incident to this vast frame, in as ample a measure as any one man for the governement of a privat family: yet the Scripture would assure even such a man, that there will come a day in which the Heavens shall passe away with a noyse, and the Elements shall melt with heat, and the earth with the workes that are

are therein shall bee burnt up, and that there is but one houre to come before all this shall bee, *Behold, now is the last houre*: And what man upon these termes would fix his heart and ground his hopes upon such a tottering bottome, as will within a little while crumble into dust, and leave the poore soule that rested upon it to sinke into hell? But now when wee consider that none of us labour for any such inheritance, that the extremitie of any mans hopes can be but to purchase some little patch of earth, which to the whole world cannot beare so neere a proportion, as the sinallest molehill to this whole habitable earth; that all wee toyle for is but to have our load of a little thicke clay, as the Prophet speakes, that when wee have gotten it, neither wee nor it sha'l continue till the universal dissolution, but in the midst of our dearest embracements wee may suddenly bee pulled asunder, and come to a fearefull end, it must

1.Ioh.2.18.

Esa. 59.5.

Esa. 28.20

Ier. 17.11.

§ 29.

Ier. 12.2.

needs be more than brutishstupidity for a man to weave the Spiders webbes, to wrappe himselfe up from the consumption determined against the whole earth, in a cowering that is so infinitely too short and too narrow for him. Wee will conclude this Particular with the doome given by the Prophet Iere-my, *As the Partridge fallethowegges and hischeth them not,* (the is either caught by the Fowler, or her egges are broken) *so he that getteth riches and not by right, shall leave them in the midst of his dayes, and in the end shall be a foole.*

Secondly, this serves to justifie the wisedome and providence of God in his proceedings with men : The wicked heere provoke God , and cry alowd for vengeance on their owne heads , and the Lord seemes to stoppe his eares at the cry of sinne , and still to loade them with his blessings, *He maketh their way to prosper, they take roote, and grow and bring forth fruite: they shine*

shine like a blazing Comet, and threaten ruine to all that looke upon them; they carry themselves like some Tyrant in a Tragedy, that scatters abroad death with the sparkles of his eyes, and darts out threats against the heaven above him; they are like Agag before Samuel, clothed very delicately, and presume that there is no bitterness to come. And now the impatency of man, that cannot resolve things into their proper issues, that cannot let iniquity ripen, nor reconcile one day and a thousand yeeres together, beginnes to question Gods proceedings, and is afraid lest the World bee governed blindefold, and blessings & curses thrown confusedly abroad for men as it were to scramble and scuffle for them. But our God who keepeth times and seasons in his owne power, who hath given to every Creature under the Sunne limits which it shall not exceed, hath set bounds unto sinne likewise wherein to ripen. The

E 5. Starres.

Starres howsoever they may bee sometimes eclipsed, have yet a fixed and permanent subsistencie in their Orbes : but these Comets though they rise with a greater traime and stremme of light, yet at last vanish into ashes and are seene no more : the Tyrant though in two or three Acts or Scenes he revell it, and disturbe the whole businesse, yet at last hee will goe out in bloud and shame:even so, though wicked men flourish and oppresse, and provoke God every day, and rage like the sea, yet the Lord hath set their bounds which they shall not passe, they have an appointed time to take their fill of the Creature, and then when they have gluttied and cloyed themselves with excesse, when their humours are growne to a full ripenesse, the Lord will temper them a potion of his wrath, which shall make them turne all up againe, and shamefull spuyng shal be on their glory. *Thus saith the Lord, for three transgressions.*

Habak. 2.

16.

Amos 1.2.

sions, & for foyre, I wil not turne away the punishment of *Damascus* and those other Cities. So long as the wicked commit one or two iniquities, so long I forbear, and expect their repentance ; but when they proceed to three, and then adde a fourth, that is, when they are come to that measure of sinne which my patience hath prefixed, then I will hasten my revenge, and not any longer turne away the punishment thereof. In the fourth generation, saith God to *Abraham*, thy posteritie shall come out of the Land where they shall bee strangers, and shall inherit this Land, for the iniquitie of the Amorites is not yet full.

Gen.15.16.

There is a time when sinne growes ripe and full, and then the sickle comes upon it. When the Prophet saw a basket of *summer fruies*, that were so ripe as that they were gathered off the tree, (which was a type of the finnes of Gods people, which are sooner ripe than the fins of Heathen that knew him not, because

Amos. 1. 2.

Jerem. 1.
11, 12.

Zechar. 5, 6
7, 8, 9, 10, 11

cause they have the constant light and heat of his word to hasten their maturity) then, saith the Lord, *The end is come upon my people, I will not passe by them any more, I will have no more patience towards them. Jeremy, what seest thou? I see the rod of an Almond tree. Thou haste well seene, sayth the Lord, for I will hasten my Word to perform it.* When men hasten the maturity of sinne like the blossomes of an Almond tree (which come soonest out) then saith the Lord, will I hasten the Judgements which I have pronounced. Wee reade in the Prophet Zecharie of an *Ephah*, a measure whereinto all the wickednesse of that people, figured by a woman, shall be throwne together, and when this measure of sinnes is full to the brimme, then there is a masse of Lead imouting the firme-nesse, immutability, & heaviness of Gods Decree and counsell, which scales up the Ephah, never more to have any sinne put into it, and then come

come two women with winde in their wings, which are the executors of Gods swift & irreversible fury, and carry the Ephah between heaven and earth, intimating the publique declaration of the righteous Judgements of God, into the Land of Shinar, to build it there an house, denoting the constant and perpetuall habitation of the wicked in that place of bondage whither the wrath of God shall drive them (for building of houses argues an abiding.) *Put you in the sickle, for the harvest is ripe ; come get you downe, for the presse is full, the fatts overflow, for the wickednesse is great.* The revenge of sinne is here and elsewhere compared to reaping, and treading the Wine-presse ; and the greatnessse of sin is here called the ripenesse of the harvest, and the overflowing of the fatts, to shew unto us, that there is a time and measure of sin, beyond which the Lord will not deferre the execution of his vengeance.

There

Iocel 3.13.

Mat. 13.30.
Esay 63. 3.
Lament. 1.
15.

Hos.9.7.

Esa.26.11.

Esa.42.25

Deut.32.

34.35.

Esa.65.6.

Ier.17.1.

Hos.13.

Ier.2.22,

34.

Hag.2.18.

Gen.6. 3.

Hos.5.7.

Hos.10.1;

Psal.37.12

There are dayes of visitation and recompence for sinne , which being come, Israel which would not know before, shall know , that God keepes their sinnes in store sealed up amongst his treasures, and that therefore their foot shall slip in due time, namely, *in the day of their calamity*, or in their moneth, as the Prophet speakes. As Gods blessings have a punctuall time, from the fourte and twentieth of the ninth moneth, from this day I will blesse you : so likewise have his Judgements too. The dayes of Man shal bee a hundred and twentie yeares, to the old World : nor are yeres only but even months determined with him: now shal a moneth devoure the with their portions, to idolatrous Israel. Nor Moneths onely, but dayes and parts of dayes ; *In a morning shall the King of Israel bee cut off*, his destruction shall bee as sudden as it is certaine. The wicked plottereth against the just, and gasheth upon him with his teeth : but

but though he plot, hee shall not prosper, though hee gnash with his teeth, hee shall not bite with his teeth, for the Lord shall laugh at him, because hee seeth that *His Day* is comming. So much mischiefe as hee can doe within the compasse of his chaine, the Lord permits him to doe; but when hee is come to His Day, then all his thoughts and projects perish with him. Excellently hath holy Job stated the Point, with whom I meane to conclude, *Their good, faith* Job 21. 16. *hee, is not in their Hand.* Riot it indeed they doe, and take their fill of pleasure for a time, as the fish of the bait, when hee hath some scope of line given him to play; but still their Good, their Time, their line is in Gods hand, they are not the Lords of their owne lives and delights. God layeth up his iniquity for his Children, that is, the Lord keepes an exact account of his sinnes, which haply hee will repay upon the heads of his Children,

dren, however hee himselfe shall have no more pleasure in his house after him; when once the *number of his moneths* is cut off in the midst; and in the meane time however he bee full of strength, wholly at ease and quiet, yet sayth hee, *The wicked is reserved to the day of destruction*; Hee is but like a prisoner, shackled peradventure in fetters of gold, but hee shall bee brought forth to the day of wrath, and though hee could rise out of the grave before Christes Tribunall, as *Agag* appeared before *Samuel* delicately clothed, yet the sword should cut him in pieces, and bitterness should overtake him. Thus wee see how infinitely unable the Creature shall bee to shelter a man from the Tribunall of Christ, and how wise, just, and wonderfull the Lord is in the administration of the World, in bearing with patience the Vessels of Wrath fitted to destruction, and suffering them to muster up his owne bles-

blessings against himself.

Lastly, this must serve for a needfull caution to us, to take heed of deifying the Creatures, and attributing that Immortality to them which they are not capable of. But in as much as they are onely for present refreshment in this vale of miserie, and have no matter of reall and abiding happiness in them, not to looke on them with an admiring or adoring eye, but to use them with such due countenances as become such mortall and vocane things.

First, in using the Creature, bee sure thou keepe thine intellectualls untainted; for earthly things are apt to cast a filme over mens eyes, and to misguide them into corrupt apprehensions and presumptions of them. Wee finde nothing more frequent in the Prophets than to upbraid the people with their strange confidences, which they were wont to rest upon against all the judgements which were denounced

§ 30.

*Solertia misericordia
non gaudia beatiorum.
Aug. Epist.
159.
Dangereus
in seculo &
mibiliter.
Tertiale
carmina.
ca. 13.*

§ 31.

nounced against them, by objecting their wealth, greatness, strong confederacies, inexpugnable munitions, their nests in the clouds, and their houses amongst the starres: they could never be brought to repent for sinne, or to tremble at Gods voyce, till they were driven off from these holds. A man can never bee brought to God till hee forsake the Creature, a man will never forsake the Creature till hee see vanity in the Creature. *Turne away mine eyes from beholding Vanitie.* David intiuates that a man can never heartily pray against fixing the affections on earthly things, till hee be really and experimentally convinced of the vanitie of them. This rule Solomon observes to withdraw the desires of young men, who have strongest affections and smallest experiance of the deceit of worldly things, Though thou rejoice and cheare up thy selfe, and walke in the wayes of thine heart, and in the sight of thine eyes, yet

Know

Know also that for all these things
God will bring thee to judgement :
A time will come when thou shalt
be stripped of all these, when
they shall play the fugitives, and
the yeares of darkenesse shall draw
nigh, when thou shalt say, I have
no pleasure in them : and then the
Lord will revenge thy great ingra-
titude in forgetting and despising
him amidst all his blessings, in ido-
lizing his gifts, and bestowing the
attributions of his glory, and the af-
fections due unto him upon a cor-
ruptible Creature. In the Romane
Triumphs the Generall or Empe-
rour, that rode in honour through
the City with the principall of his
enemies bound in chaines behinde
his Chariot, had alwayes a servant
running along by him with this
Corrective of his glory, *Respicce
post te, hominem memento se.* Look
behinde thee, and in the persons of
thine enemies learne that thou thy
selfe art a man subject to the same
Casualties and dishonours with o-
thers.

Eccl.11,9

Tertull. A-
polo*g.c.33.*

Briſſon.de
Formul.6.4

Augustinus
eterno viſu

ſtipem quo-
tannis die

certo emen-
dicabat a po-
pulo cavam

manum af-
ſes porri-
gentibus

prabens.
Sueton.in
Aug.c.91.

thers. Surely, if men w^t o had nothing but the Creatures to trust to, being Aliens from the Covenant of promise, and without God in the world, had yet so much care to keepe their judgements sound touching the Vanity of their greatest honours, how much more ought Christians, who professe themselves heirs of better and more abundant promises? But especially since thy selfe against those vanities which most easily beset and beguile thee; apply the authority of the Word to thine owne particular sicknesse and disease, treasure up all the experiences that meet thee in thine own course, or are remarkable in the lives of others, rememb're how a moment swallowed up such a pleasure, which will never returne againe, how an indirect purchase embitter'd such a preferment, and thou never didst feele that comfort in it, which thy hopes and ambitions promised thee, how a frowne and disgrace at another time

The Vanity of the Creature.

time dashed all thy contrivances for further advancement, how death seazed upon such a friend, in whom thou hadst layed up much of thy dependance and assurances, how time hath not onely rob'd thee of the things, but even turn'd the edge of thy desires, and made thee loath thy wonted idols, and looke upon thy old delights as ~~Amnon~~ upon *Tamar* with exceeding hatred. But above all addresse thy selfe to the Throne of Grace, and beseech the Lord so to sanctifie his Creatures unto thee, as that they may not be either thieves against him to steale away his honour, or snares to thee to entangle thy soule. Wee will conclude this first Direction with the words of the Apostle : *The Time is short: It remaineth that both they that have wives bee as though they had none, and they that weepe as though they weeped not, and they that reioyce as though they reioyced not, and they that buy as though they possessed not, and they that use this world*

i. Cor. 7. 29

Esa. 38.12

1.Pet.4.7.

world as not abusing is, that is, as not to be drowned & smothered in the busynesses of this life, as if there were any fundamental and solid utility in them; for saith he, *The fashion of this world passeth away.* The Apostles Exhortation is beset at both ends with the same enforcement from whence I have raised mine. First, *The time is short;* The Apostle, as the learned conceive, useth a Metaphor from Saines or Curtains, or Shepheards Tents (as *Ezekiel* makes the comparison) such things as may be gathered up together into a narrow roome. Time is short, that is, That time which the Lord hath spread over all things like a saile, hath now this five thousand yeeres beeene rolling up, and the end is now at hand, as *Saint Peter* speakes; The day is approaching when time shall bee no more. And so the words in the Originall will well bear it, *καιρός ανιστάται οντος ημέρας.* The remainder of time is short, or time is short, for so much

as

as yet remaineth of it to bee folded up, and therefore wee ought so to behaue our selves as men that have more serious things to consider of, as men that are very neare to that everlasting haven, where there shall bee no use of such sailes any more. And in the Apostles close the same reason is farther yet enforced : *For the fashion of this world passeth away, & is gone,* The figure , intimating that there is nothing of any firme-nesse or solid consistency in the Creature, it is but a surface, an outside , an empty promise , all the beauty of it is but skinne deepe ; and then that little which is desiraeble and pretious in the eyes of men (which the Apostle calleth *The lust of the world, 1 Joh. 2.17.*) ~~is past~~, It passeth away , and is quickly gone. The word , as the learned differently render it, hath three severall Arguments in it to expresse the Apostles exhortation.

I. *It deceives or coozens , and therefore use it as if you used it not,*
use

use it as a man in a serious busynesse would use a false friend that profers his assistance, though his protestations be never so faire, yet so employ him as that the busynesse may bee done though hee should fayle thee.

2 *Transversum agit*, It carries a man headlong: the lusts of the world are so strong and impetuous, that they are apt to enflame the desires, and even violently to carry away the heart of a man; and for this cause likewise use it as if you used it not, engage your selfe as little upon it as you can, doe as mariners in a mighty windē, hoise up as few sayles, expose as few of thy affections to the rage of worldly lust as may bee; beware of being carried where two seas meet, as the ship wherein *Paul* suffered shipwracke, I meane, of plunging thy selfe in a confluence of many boisterous and conflicting busynesses, least for thine inordinate prosecution of worldly things, the Lord either

either give thy Soule over to suffer shipwracke in them, or strip thee of all thy lading and tackling, break thine estate all to pieces, and make thee glad to get to Heaven upon a broken planke.

3. The fashion of this world passeth over, it doth but goe along by thee and salute thee, and therefore use it as if thou used'st it not ; doe to it as thou would'st doe to a stranger whom thou meetest in the way, hee goes one way and thou another ; salute him, stay so long in his company till from him thou have received better instructions touching the turnings and difficulties of thine owne way , but take heed thou turn not into the way of the Creature, least thou lose thine owne home.

Secondly, Get an Eye of Faith, to looke Through and Above the Creature. A man shall never get to looke off from the world,till hee can looke beyond it. For the soule will have hold-fast of something,

2.Pet.1.9.

and the reason why men cling so much to the earth is, because they have no assurance, if they let goe that hold of having any subsistence elsewhere. Labour therefore to get an interest in Christ, to finde an everlasting footing in the stedfastnesse of Gods Promises in him, and that will make thee willing to suffer the losse of all things, it will implant a kinde of hatred and dis estimation of all the most precious endearements which thy soule did feed upon before. Saint Peter saith of wicked men, that they are *Pur-blinde*, *they cannot see a farre off*, they can see nothing but that which is next them, and therefore no marvell if their thoughts cannot reach unto the End of the Creature. There is in a dimme eye the same constant and habituall indisposition which sometimes happeneth unto a sound eye by reason of a thicke mist: though a man be walking in a very short lane, yet hee sees no end of it: and so a naturall man cannot reach

reach to the period of earthly things, death and danger are still a great way out of his sight, whereas the eye of faith can looke upon them as already expiring, and through them look upon him who therefore gives the Creatures unto us, that in them wee might see his power and taste his goodnessse : and nature it selfe me thinkes may seem to have intended some such thing as this in the very order of the Creatures. Downeward a mans eye hath something immediatly to fixe on; all is shut up in darkenesse save the very surface, to note that wee should have our desires shut up too from those earthly things which are put under our feet, and hid from our eyes, and buried in their owne deformity. All the beauty, and all the fruit of the earth is placed on the very outside of it, to shew how short and narrow our affections should be towards it. But upward the eye findes scarce any thing to bound it, all is transparent

ioen ydnes
tis on dñe.
dawyn,
an' on's
'yng's, ader
opentickon.
Arist.Rhet.
l.z.

rant and diaphanous, to note how vast our affections should be towards God, how endless our thoughts and desires of his kingdome, how present to our faith the heavenly things should be even at the greatest distance. The Apostle saith, That Faith is *the Substance of things hoped for*, that it gives being & present subsistency to things farre distant from us, makes those things which in regard of naturall causes are very remote, in regard of Gods Promises to seeme hard at hand. And therefore though there were many hundred yeres to come in the Apostles time, and, for ought wee know, may yet bee to the Dissolution of the World, yet the Apostle tells us that even then it was the last hour, because faith being able distinctly to see the truth and Promises of God, and the Endlesnesse of that life which is then presently to bee revealed, the infinite excesse of vastnesse in that, made that which was otherwise a great

great space seeme even as nothing, no more in comparison than the length of a Cane or Trunk, through which a man lookes on the Heavens, or some vast countrey. And ever the greater magnitude and light there is in a body, the smaller will the *medium* or distance seeme from it; the reason why a perspective glasse drawes remote objects close to the eye, is because it multiplies the *species*. Wee then by Faith apprehending an infinite and everlasting glory, must needs conceive any thing through which wee looke upon it to bee but short and vanishing. And therefore though the Promises were a farre off in regard of their owne existence, yet the Patriarkes did not onely see but embrace them; their Faith seemed to nullifie and swallow up all the distance. *Abrahams* saw Christs day and was glad; hee looked upon those many ages which were betweene him and his promised seed, as upon small and unconfide-

Heb.11.3,

Ioh.8.

rable distances in comparison of that endlesse glory into which they ran, they were but as a curtaine or piece of hangings, which divide one roome in a house from another. Labour therefore to get a distinct view of the height and length, and breadth and depth, and the unsearchable love of God in Christ, to finde in thine owne soule the truth of God in his promises, and that his Word abideth for ever, and that will make all the glory of other things to seeme but as grasse.

Esa. 40.8.

§. 33.

*Si desunt,
non per ma-
la opera
quaerantur
in mundo si
ad sunt, per
bona opera
seruentur
in celo. Epi.
205.
Luk. 16.9.*

Lastly, though the Creature be mortall in it selfe, yet in regard of man, as it is an instrument serviceable to his purposes, and subordinat to the graces of God in him, it may bee made of use even for Immortality. To which purpose excellent is that speech of Holy Austin, if you have not these earthly goods, saith bee, take heed how thou get them by evill workes heere; and if thou have them, labour by good workes

workes to hold them even when thou art gone to Heaven. Make you friends, saith our Saviour, of the unrighteous Mammon, that when you faile, they may receive you into everlasting habitations; a religious and mercifull use of earthly things makes way to Immortalitie and Blessednesse. Cast thy Bread upon the waters, and after many dayes thou shalte finde it. It is an allusion unto husbandmen. They doe not eat up and sell away all their corne, for then the world would quickly be destitute, but the way they take to perpetuate the fruits of the earth, is to cast some of it backe againe into a fruitfull soile where the waters come, and then in due time they receive it with increase: so should wee doe with these worldly blessings, sow them in the bowels and backes of the poore members of Christ, and in the day of harvest wee shall finde a great increase. If thou draw out thy soule to the righteous, and satisfie the afflicted Soule,

F 4 then

Ezai. 58.10
E. J.

then shall thy light rise in obscurity,
and thy darkenesse bee as the noone
day, then thy waters shall not lye unto
thee; that happinesse which it fally
promiseth unto other men , it
shall performe to thee . And so
much be spoken touching the great
disproportion betwene the Soule
of man and the Creature, in regard
of the *Vanity* of it.

§ 34.

Eccles. i. 8.

The next disproportion is in
their *Operation*. They are vexing
and molesting things . Rest is the
satisfaction of every Creature , all
the rovings and agitations of the
Soule are but to finde out some-
thing on which to rest ; and there-
fore where there is Vexation, there
can bee no proportion to the Soule
of man ; and *Salomon* telles us ,
That *All things under the Sunne* are
full of labour, more than a man can
utter. Hee was not used as an in-
strument of the Holy Ghost to
speake it onely, but to try it too ;
the Lord was pleased for that very
purpose to conferre on him a con-
fluence

fluence of all outward happinesse, and inward abilities which his very heart could desire, that hee at last might discover the utter insufficiency of all created Excellencies to quiet the Soule of man. But if we will not beleeve the Experience of *Salomon*, let us beleeve the authority of him that was greater than *Salomon*; who hath plainly compared the things and the cares of the earth to *Thornes*, which as the Apostle speakes, *Pierce or bore a man thorough with many sorrowes.*

Firſt, They are *Wounding thornes*; for that which is but a pricke in the flesh is a wound in the Spirit; because the Spirit is most tender of smart: and the Wise man calls them *Vexation of Spirit*. The Apostle tells us they beget many sorrowes, and those sorrowes bring death with them. If it were poſſible for a man to ſee in one view those oceans of bloud which have beeene let out of mens veines by this one Thorne; to heare in one noife all the groanes of

F. 5 those

Mar. 13 22.

1. Tim. 6.

10.

¶ 35.

2. Cor. 7.10

those poore men, whose lives from the beginning of the world unto these dayes of bloud wherein wee live have been set at sale , and sacrificed to the unsatiable ambition of their bloody rulers ; to see and heare the endlesse remorse and bitter yellings of so many rich and mighty men as are now in Hell, everlastingly cursing the deceit and murther of these earthly Creatures, it woulde easily make every man with pitty and amazement to believe, that the Creatures of themselves without Christ to qualifie their venoyme and to blunt their edge, are in good earnest *Wounding Thornes.*

§ 36

Secondly , they are *Choking Thornes*; they stifle and keep down all the gracious seeds of the word, yea, the very naturall sproutings of noblenesse, ingenuity, morality in the dispositions of men. Seed requires emprincesse in the ground, that there may be a free admission of the raine and influences of the heavens

to

to cherish it : and so the Gospell requires nakednesse and poverty of minde, a sense of our owne utter insufficiencie to our selves for happiness, in which sense it is said that the *poore receive the Gospell*. But now earthly things meeting with corruption in the heart are very apt First, to *Fill it*, and secondly, to *Swel it*, both which are conditions contrary to the preparations of the Gospell.

They *Fill* the heart. First, with *Busynesse*. Yokes of Oxen , and Farmes, and wives, and the like contentments take up the studies and delights of men, that they cannot finde out any leasure to come to Christ.

Secondly, They *Fill* the Heart with *Love*, and the *Love of the world shuts out the Love of the Father*, as the Apostle speaks. When the Heart goes after Covetousnesse, the power and obedience of the word is shut quite out. *They will not doe thy Words*, saith the Lord to the

Luk.14.18.
20.

§ 37.

Ioh.2.15

Ezek.33.-

the Prophet, *for their heart goeth after their Covetousnesse.* A deare and superlative Love, such as the Gospell ever requires (for a man must love Christ upon such termes as to be ready without consultation or demurre, not to forsake one-ly, but to hate father and mother & wife, & any the choicest worldly endearements for his Gospels sake) I say such a Love admits of no Cor-rivalty or competition. And ther-e-fore the love of the World must needs extinguish the love of the Word.

Lastly, they fill the heart with feare of forgoing them: and feare takes off the heart from any thoughts save those which looke upon the matter of our feare: when men who make Gold their Confi-dence heare that they must forsake all for Christ, and are sometimes haply put upon a triall, they start a-side, choose rather securely to enjoy what they have present hold of, than venture the interruption of their

their carnall contentments for such things, the beauty whereof the Prince of this World hath blinded their eyes that they should not see. For certainly till the minde be settled to beleeve that in God there is an ample recompence for any thing which wee may otherwise forgoe for him, it is impossible that a man should soundly embrace the love of the truth, or renounce the love of the world.

Secondly, as they Fill, so they Swell the Heart too, and by that meanes worke in it a contempt and disesteemation of the simplicity of the Gospell. Wee have both together in the Prophet, According to their pasture so were they *Filled*; they were filled, and their heart was *Exalted*, therefore have they forgotten mee. Now the immediat childe of Pride is selfe-dependance and a reflection on our owne sufficiency, and from thence the next issue is a contempt of the simplicity of that Gospell which would drive us

§ 38.

Hos.13.6.

Psal.10.4.

1.Cor.1.

23.

Act.17.32.

Luk.16.14.

us out of our selves. The Gentiles out of the pride of their own wise-dome counted the Gospell of Christ foolishnesse, and mocked those that preached it unto them: and the Pharisees, who were the learned Doctors of Ierusalem, when they heard Christ preach against earthly affections, out of their pride and covetousnesse *Derided him*, as the Evangelist speakes. Nay further they stifle the seeds of all noblenesse, ingenuity, or common vertues in the lives of men ; from whence come oppression, extortion, bribery, cruelty, rapine, fraud, injurious, treacherous, sordid, ignoble courses, a very dissolution of the Lawes of nature amongst men, but from the adoration of earthly things, from that Idoll of Covetousnesse which is set up in the heart ?

Thirdly, they are *Deceitfull Thornes*, as our Saviour expresteth it. Let a man in a tempest goe to a Thorne for shelter, and hee shall light

light upon a Thiefe in stead of a fence, which will teare his flesh in stead of succouring him, and doe him more injury than the evill which hee fled from; and such are the Creatures of themselves, so far are they from protecting, that indeed they tempt, and betray us. The pride of thine heart *bath decei-
ved thee*, thou that dwellest in the Clefts of the Rockes, thou that sayest in thine heart, Who shall bring me downe? I will bring thee downe, saith the Lord to Edom.

Lastly, they are *vanishing Thorns*: nothing so apt, nothing so easie to catch fire, and be presently extinguished. They are *quenched like a fire of Thornes*.

To consider yet more distinctly the *vexation* of the Creature, wee will observe first the *Degrees*; secondly, the *Grounds* of it; and thirdly, the *Uses* which we should put it to.

Five *Degrees* wee shall observe
of

Obad.vers.
3,4.
Habak, 2.
9,10.
Ezek.28.
17.
Zeph.2,15.
§ 39
Psal.58,9.
118,12.

§ 40.

of this *Vexation*.

Eccl. 2.22.
23.

First, the Creatures are apt to molest the Spirit in the procuring of them, even as Thornes will certainly pricke in their gathering. They make all a mans dayes sorrow, and his travell grieve, they suffer not his heart to take rest in the night, as the Wise man speaks. What paines wil men take? What hazards will they runne to procure their desires? Paines of body, plotting of braine, conflicts of passions, biting of conscience, disreputation amongst men, scourge of tongues, any thing, every thing will men adventure, to obtaine at last that which it may bee is not a competent reward for the smallest of these *Vexations*. How will men exchange their Salvation, throw away their owne mercy, make themselves perpetuall drudges and servitors to the times, fawne, flatter, comply, couple in with the instruments or Authors of their hopes, hazard their owne bloud in

in desperat undertakings, and staine their consciences with the bloud of others, to swimme through all to their adored haven. *Adorare vulgus, jacere oculis, & omnia serviliter pro imperio.* The Historian spake it of *Otho* that Romane *Absalom*, hee worshipped the people, dispenced frequently his courtesies and plausibilities, crouched and secommadated himselfe to the basest routs, that thereby hee might creepe into an usurped honour, and get himselfe a hated memorie in after-ages. And that the like vexation is ordinary in the procurement of any earthly things will easily appeare, if wee but compare the disposition of the mind with the obstacles that meet us in the pursuit of them. Suppose wee a man importunately set to travell unto some place where the certainty of some great profit or preferment attends his comming, the way through which hee must goe is intricate, deepe, unpassable, the beast

Tacit. hist.
lib. I.

beast that carries him lame and tyred, his acquaintance none, his instructions few; what a heavy vexation must this needs be to the soule of that man to bee crossed with so many difficulties in so eager a desire? Just this is the case with natural men in the prosecution of earthly things. First, the desires of men are very violent (which the Scripture useth to expresse by making *buste*, *greedy coveting*, *a purpose to be rich*) *Qui Dives fieri vult, & cito vult fieri*, they that will be rich cannot be quiet till their desires are accomplished: and therefore wee finde strong desires in the Scripture phrase expressed by such things as give intimation of paine with them. The Apostle describethē by *groaning and sighing*; the Prophet *David* by *panting and gasping*; the Spouse in the Canticles by *sicknesse*, *I am sicke with love*. Thus *Amnon* grew leane for the desire of his sister, and was vexed and sicke; thus *Abab* waxed heavie, and layed him

Prov. 21.5.
26.1. Tim.
6.9.

Rom. 8.23.
26.
Psal. 42.1.
Cant. 2.5.
2. Sam. 13.
2.
1. King. 21.
4.

him downe on his bed, and , turned away his face, and would not eate because of *Naboths Vineyard*. So that very importunitie of desires is full of *Vexation* in it selfe. But besides , the meanes for fulfilling these desires are very difficult, the instruments very weak and impotent : peradventure a mans wits are not suteable to his desires, or his strength not to his wits, or his stocke not to his strength , his friends few , his corrivals many, his businesses tough and intricate,his counsels uncertaine , his projects way-layed and prevented, his contrivances dashed and disappointed, such a circumstance unseene, such a casualty starting suddenly out,such an occurrence meeting the action hath made it unfeasible, and ship-wrecked the expectation. A man deales with the earth, he findes it weake and languide, every foot of that must oftentimes lye *fallow* , when his desires doe stil plow;with men, hee findes their hearts hard,
and

and their hands close ; with ser-vants, hee findes them slow and un-faithfull ; wish trading, hee findes the times hard, the World at a stand, every man too thrifty to deale much, and too craftie to bee de-ceived : so that now that *vexation* which was at first begun with *vehementie of desire*, is mightily im-proved with *impatiencie of opposi-tion*, and lastly much increased with the *feare of utter disappointment* at last. For according as the desires are either more urgent, or more dif- ficult, so wil the feares of their mis-carriage grow ; and it is a misera-ble thing for the minde to be torne asunder betweene two such violent passions as *Desire and Feare*.

§ 41.

The second Degree of *Vexation* is in the multiplying of the Creature that men may have it to looke up-on with their eyes, and to worship it in their affections. And in this Case the more the heape growes, the more the heart is enlarged unto it, and impossible it is, that that desire

desire should bee ever quieted, which growes by the fruition of the thing desired. A Wolfe that hath once tasted bloud is more fierce in the desire of it than hee was before, experience puts an edge upon the Appetite; and so it is in the desires of men, they grow more savage and raging in the second or third prosecution than in the first. It is an usual selfe deceit of the heart to say and thinke, If I had such an accession to mine estate, such a dignity mingled with mine other preferments, could but leave such and such portions behinde me, I should then rest satisfied & desire no more. This is a most notorious cheat of the fleshly heart of man; first, therby to beget a secret conceit, that since this being gotten I should sit quietly downe, I may therfore set my selfe with might and maine to procure it, and in the meane time negle&t the state of my soule, and peradventure ship-wrecke my Conscience upon indirect and unwarrantable

able meanes for fulfilling so warrantable and just a desire. And secondly, thereby likewise to inure and habituate the affections to the love of the world, to plunge the soule in earthly delights , and to distill a secret poyson of greedinesse into the heart. For it is with worldly love as with the Sea, let it have at the first never so little a gap at which to creepe in, and it will eate out a wider way, till at last it grow too strong for all the bulwarkes and overrunne the Soule. *Omne peccatum habet in se mendacium :* there is something of the lye in every sinne, but very much in this of worldlinesse, which gets upon a man with slender and modest pretences, till at last it gather impudence and violence by degrees ; even as a man that runnes downe a steepe hill is at last carried not barely by the impulsion of his owne will, but because at first hee engaged himselfe upon such a motion as in the which it would prove impossible

*Aug. de civ.
Des. L. 14.
cap. 4.*

ble for him to stop at his pleasure. Wee reade in Saint *Austins Confessions* of *Alpius* his Companion, who being by much importunitie overcome to accompany a friend of his to those bloody Romane Games, wherein men killed one another to make sport for the people; and yet resolving though hee went with his body, to leave his heart behindehim, and for that purpose to keepe his eyes shut, that hee might not staine them with so ungodly a spectacle, yet at last upon a mighty shout at the fall of a man, hee could not forbear to see the occasion, and upon that grew to couple with the rout, and to applaud the action, as the rest did. In another place of the same booke wee reade of *Monica*, the mother of that holy man, that she had so often used to sip the wine that came to her Fathers table, that from sipping shee grew to loving, and from thence to excessive drinking; which particulars are by him reported, to shew

Confess.lib.
6.c.8.

Confess.lib.
9.c.8.

Tacit.

1.Tim.6.
10.Exod.16.
20.

shew the deceitfulness of sinne in growing upon the conscience, if it can but win the heart to consult, to deliberate, to indulge a little to it selfe at first : for it is in the case of sinne, as it is in Treason, *qui delibera-*
rant desciverunt, to entertaine any the modelest termes of parley with Gods enemy is downeright to forsake him. And if it be so in any thing, then much more in the love of the World ; for the Apostle tells us, that that is a *Root*, and therefore we must expect, if ever it get footing in us, partly by reason of its owne fruitfull qualitie, partly by reason of the fertile soyle wherin it is, the corrupt heart of man, partly by reason of Satans constant plying it with his husbandry and suggestions, that it will every day grow faster, settle deeper, and spread wider in our soules. By which meanes it must needs likewise create abundance of *Vexation* to the spirits of men. For as *Manna* in the Wilderness, when the people

people would not be content to have from God their daily bread, but would needs be hoarding and multiplying of it, bred wormes and stanke ; so when men will needs heape up wealth and other earthly supplies beyond stint or measure, they doe but store up wormes to gnaw upon the r^econsci-ences, that which will vex and annoy the owners. *They pants after the Dust of the Earth on the head of the poore*, saith the Prophet of those cruell oppressors that sold the righteous for shooes ; it notes how the fiercenesse of a greedy and unsatiable desire will weare out the strength of a man, make him spend all his wits, and even gaspe out his spirits, in pursuing the poore unto the dust, sucking out their very livelihood and substance, till they are faine to lye downe in the dust. *Woe unto him*, saith the Prophet, *that increaseth that which is not his*, enlarging his desires as Hell and death, *that loadeth himselfe with*

G

thicke

Amos.2.7.

Habak.2.6.

Amos 3.1c.

James 5.3.

thicks clay, that is in other expressions, that storreh up violence and robbery, that heapeth treasures against the last day; the words shew us what the issue of vehement and indefatigable affections is, they doe but create vexations to a mans own soule, and all his wealth will at length lye upon his conscience like a load and mountaine of heavie earth.

§ 42.

οὐ μὴ σώσεις
δῆλον, ἀλλὰ
κατολαυστόν
εἰς τὸ ἄμμον
τῆμεντα, τῷ
διαπόλαυστῷ
περὶ οὐρανοῦ.
Cor. 1. 18. 1 Cor.
pop. Antioch.
Hom. 2.

The third Degree of Vexation is from the *enjoyment*, or rather from the use of earthly things, for though a wicked man may be said to use the Creatures, yet in a strict sense hee cannot bee said to enjoy them. The Lord maketh his Sunne to shine upon them, giveth them a lawfull interest, possession, and use of them ; but all this doth not reach to a *Fruition*. For that imports a delightfull sweet orderly use of them, which things belong unto the blessings and promises of the Gospell. In which respect the Apostle sayth, that God giveth unto

1.Tim.6.17

to us ~~new~~ ^{old} 'tis knowen, All things
richly to enjoy. This is the maine
sting and vexation of the Creature
alone without Gods more especi-
all blessing, that in it a man shall
still taste a secret curse, which de-
prives him of that dearenesse and
satisfaction which hee lookest for
from it. False joy like the crack-
ling of Thornes hee may finde,
but still there is some flie in the
oyntment, some death in the pot,
some madnesse in the laughter,
which in the midst of all damps
and surpriseth the soule with hor-
rour and sadnessse ; there are still
some secret suggestions and whis-
perings of a guilty conscience, that
through all this Iordan of pleasure
a man swimmes downe apace into
a dead Sea, that all his delights
do but carry him the faster unto a
finall Judgement, *Res severa est
verum gaudium* ; True joy, saith
the Heathen Man, is not a perfun-
ctory, a floating thing, it is se-
rious and massy, it sinkes to the

Senec. ep.

Center of the heart: as in Nature, the Heavens wee know are alway, calme, serene, uniforme, undisturbed; they are the clouds and lower Regions that thunder and bluster; The Sunne and Starres rayse up no fogges so high, as that they may imprint any reall blot upon the beauty of those purer bodies, or disquiet their constant and regular motions: but in the lower Regions, by reason of their neareenesse to the earth, they frequently rayse up such Meteors as often breake forth into Thunders and Tempests; so the more heavenly the minde is, the more untainted doth it keepe it selfe from the corruptions and temptations of worldly things, the more quiet and composed is it in all estates; but in minds miserably sensuall the hotter Gods favours shine, and the faster his raine falls upon them, the more fogs are raysed, the higher Thorns grow up, the more darkenesse and distractions doe shake the soule of such

such a man. As fire under water, the hotter it burnes, the sooner it is extinguished by the over-running of the water: so earthly things raise up such tumultuary and disquiet thoughts in the mindes of men, as doth at last quite extinguish all the heat and comfort which was expected from them.

Give mee leave to explaine this Vexation in some one or two of Salomon's particulars, and to enfold his enforcements thereof out of them. And first, to begin with that with which hee begins; the Knowledge of things, either Naturall in this present Text, or morall and Civill, ver. 17. of both which hee concludeth that they are *Vanity and Vexation of Spirit*. The first argument hee takes from the *weaknesse* of it, either to restore or correct any thing that is amisse. *That which is crooked cannot bee made straight*: Wee may understand it severall wayes: First, all our knowledge by reason of mans cor-

§ 43.

G 3 rupti-

ruption is but a crooked, ragged, impedit knowledge, and for that reason a vexation to the minde : for rectitude is full of beauty, and crookednesse of deformity. In mans Creation his understanding should have walked in the strait path of truth, should have had a distinct view of causes and effects in their immediat successions; but now sinne hath mingled such confusion with things, that the minde is fain to take many crooked and vast compasses for a little uncertaine knowledge. Secondly, The weaknesse of all naturall knowledge is seen in this, that it cannot any way either prevent or correct the naturall crookednesse of the smallest things, much lesse make a man solidly and substantialy happy. Thirdly, That which is crooked cannot be made strait. It is impossible for a man by the exactest knowledge of natural things to make the nature of a man, which by sin is departed from its primitive rectitude, strait again, to repaire that

Image

Image of God which is so much distorted. *When they knew GOD, they glorified him not as God, they became vaine in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened.* It is the Apostles speech of the wifest Heathen. *Aristotle*, the most rationall Heathen man that the world knowes of, in his Doctrine confesseth the disability of morall knowledge to rectifie the intemperance of Nature, and made it good in his practice; for he used a common Strumpet to satisfie his lust. *Seneca* likewise the exactest Stoicke which we meeete with, then whom never any man writ more divinely for the contempt of the World, was yet the richest Usurer that ever wee reade of in ancient Stories, though that were a sinne discovered and condemned by the Heathen themselves.

A second ground of Vexation from knowledge is, *The Defects and Imperfections of it. That which is wanting cannot bee numbered.* There

Rom. i. 21.

Etic. lib. 7.
cap. 3. & 4.
Vide de pbi-
losophis Im-
pudicis &
veritatem
corrumpen-
tibus. Terti
Apolog. c. 46
Tacit. An.
lib. 13. Dio.
Tac. Annal.
lib. 6. Aris.
Polit. lib. 1
cap. 10. via.
Rosin. Anti.
lib. 8. c. 20.

§ 44.

are many thousand Conclusions in Nature which the most exquisitive Judgement is not able to pierce into, nor resolve into their just Principles. Nay, still the more a man knowes, the more discoveries hee makes of things hee knowes not.

§ 45.

Thirdly, in *much wisedome* is *much griefe*, and *hee that increaseth knowledge increaseth sorrow*. In ci-vill wisedome, the more able a man is, the more service is cast upon him, the more busynesses runne through him, the lesse can he enjoy his time or liberty. His Eminence loades him with envie, jealousies, obser-vation, suspicione, forceth him oftentimes upon unwelcome compliancys, upon colours and inven-tions to palliate unjust Courfels and stoppe the clamours of a gaine-say-ing Conscience, filleth him with feares of miscarriage and disgrace, with projects of honour and plau-sibility, with restlesse thoughts how to discover, prevent, conceale, accommodate the aduersaries, or his

his owne affaires, in one word is very apt to make him a stranger to God and hisowne soule. In other learning, let a man but consider, First, The confusion, uncertainty, involvednesse, perplexities of Causes and Effects by mans sinne; Secondly, The paines of the body, the travell of the minde, the sweate of the Braine, the tugging and plucking of the understanding, the very drudgery of the Soule to breake through that confusion, and her owne difficulties; Thirdly, the many invincible doubts and errours which will still blemish our brightest Notions; Fourthly, the great charges which the very instruments and furniture of learning will put men to; Fifthly, the generall disrespect which, when all is done, it findes in the World, great men scorning it as pedantry, ordinary men unable to take notice of it, and great Scholars faine to make up a Theater amongst themselves; Sixthly, the Insufficiency therof

to perfect that which is amisse in our Nature, the malignant property thereof to put sin into armour, to contemne the simplicity and purity of Gods Word; And lastly, the neare approach thereof to its owne period, the same death that attendeth us being ready also to bury all our learning in the grave with us: these and infinite the like considerations must needs mingle much sorrow with the choicest Learning.

§ 46.

Secondly, let us take a view of pleasure. There is nothing doth so much disable in the survey of pleasure as the mixture either of folly or want. When a man hath wisedome to apprehend the exquisite-nessse of his delights, and variety to keepe out the surfeit of any one, he is then fittest to examine what compasse of Goodnesse or satisfaction is in them. First then, *Salomon* kept his wisedome, hee pursued such manly and noble delights as might not vitiate but rather improve his in-

intellectuals. *Chap. 2. verse 1, 2,*
3. Secondly, his wisedome was
furnished with variety of subjects
to enquire into, hee had magnifi-
cence and provisions suteable to the
greatnesse of his royall minde.
Sumptuous and delicate diet under
the name of wine. *verse 3.* stately
Edifices, *verse 4.* Vineyards and Or-
chards, yea very Paradises, as large
as Woods, *verse 5, 6.* Fish-ponds,
and great Waters, multitudes of
Attendants and retinue of all sexes.
Mighty heards of Cattell of all
kindes, *verse 7.* Great treasures of
Silver and Gold, all kindes of mu-
sique vocall and instrumentall;
Thirdly, *Solomon* exceeded in all
these things all that ever went be-
fore him, *verse 9.* Fourthly, as he
had the most abundant, so likewise
the most free, undisturbed, unabat-
ted enjoyment of them all, Hee
with-held not his heart from any
joy: there was no mixture of sick-
nesse, warre, or any intercurrent
difficulties to corrupt their sweet-
nesse,

1 Kings 4.
& 10.

nesse, or blunt the taste of them. Here are as great preparations as the heart of man can expect to make an universall survey of those delights which are in the Creature: and yet at last upon an impartiall enquiry into all his most magnifcent workes, the Conclusion is, they were but *Vanity and vexation of spirit*, verse 11. Which Vexation hee further explaines. First, by the necessary divorce which was to come betweene him and them, He was to leave them all, verse 18. Secondly, by his disability so to dispose of them as that after him they might remaine in that manner as he had ordered them, verse 19. Thirdly, by the effects which these and the like considerations wrought in him; they were so farre from giving him reall satisfaction, as that first, he *Hated* all his workes, for there is nothing makes one hate more eagerly than disappointment in the good which a man expected. When *Amnon* found what little satisfaction

faction his exorbitant lust received in ravishing his sister *Tamar*, hee as fiercely hated her after hee had desired her before. Secondly, *Hee despaired of finding any good in them, because they beget nothing but travell, drudgery, and unquiet thoughts.*

Lastly, let us take a view of *Riches*, the ordinarily most adored Idol of all the rest. The wise Man sayes, first in generall, *Neither Riches nor yet abundance of Riches will satisfie the soule of man*, Eccles. 5.10. This hee more particularly explaines; first, from the sharers which the encrease of them doth naturally draw after it, verse 11. and betweene the Owners and the sharers there is no difference but this, an empty speculation, one sees as his owne, what the other enjoys to those reall purposes for which they serve as well as he. Secondly, from the unquietnesse which naturally growes by the encrease of them, which makes an ordinary

See Job 2.c.
15.-29.

ordinary drudge in that respect more happy, verse 12. Thirdly, from the hurt which usually, without some due corrective they bring, verse 13. either they hurt a man in himselfe, being strong temptations and materials too of pride, vaine-glory, covetousnesse, luxury, intemperance, forgetfulness of God, love of the World, and by these of disorder, dissolutenesse, and diseases in the body; or else at least they expose him to the envie, accusations, violences of wicked men. Fourthly, from their uncertainty of abode, they perish by an evill travell, either Gods curse, or some particular humour, lust, or project overturnes a great estate, and posterity is beggerd. Fifthly, from the certainty of an everlasting separation from them, verse 15, 16. and this hee faith is a *sure evill*, which galles the heart of a worldly man, that hath resolved upon no other Heaven than his wealth, when sicknesse comes to snatch him away

away from this his Idol, there is not onely sorrow, but *wrath and fury* in him, verse 17. Sixthly, from the disability to use or enjoy them, when a man through inordinate love, or distrustfull providence, or sordidnesse of spirit, or encumbrances of employments, will not while he lives enjoy his abundance, and when he dyes hath not, either by his owne covetous prevention, or his successours inhumanity, an honourable buriall, *Chap. 6.* verse 1, 2, 3. Seventhly, from the narrownesse of any satisfaction which can be received from them, verse 7. All the wealth a man hath can reach no higher than the *filling of his mouth*, then the outward services of the Body, the desires of the Soule remaine empty still. A glutton may fill his belly, but hee cannot fill his lust; a covetous man may have a house full of money, but hee can never have a heart full of money; an ambitious man may have Titles enough to overcharge his

his memory, but never to fill his pride; the agitations of the Soule would not cease, the curiosity of the understanding would not stand at a stay, though a man could hold all the learning of the great Library in his head at once; the sensuality of a lascivious man would never bee satiated, it would bee the more enraged, though he should tyre out his strength and waste his spirits, and stupifie all his senses with an excessive intemperance. When men have done all they can with their wisedome and wealth, they can fill no more but the mouth, and poverty and folly makes a shift to doe so too, verse 8. the desires wander, the soule roves up and downe as ever, verse 9. Eightly, from their disability to protect or rescue a man from evill, to advance the strength of a man beyond what it was before, verse 10. Though a man could scrape all the wealth in the world together, hee were *but a man still*, subject to the same dangers

gers and infirmities as before, nothing can exalt him above, or exempt him from the common Lawes of humanity : neither shall hee be ever able to contend with him that is mightier than he. All his wealth shall never bee able to blinde the eye, or bribe the Justice, or restraine the power of Almighty God, if hee be pleased to inflict the strokes of his vengeance upon his Conscience.

The fourth degree of vexation is from the *Review of them*: First, if a man consider the *meanes* of his getting them. His Conscience will oftentimes tell him, that peradventure hee hath pursued indirect and unwarrantable wayes of gaine, hath ventured to lye, flatter, sweare, deceive, supplant, undermine, to corrupt and adulterate wares, to hoord up and dissemble them till a dearer seafon, to trench upon Gods Day for his owne purposes, that so hee might not onely receive, but even steale away bles-
sings

§ 48.

sings from him. Secondly, if a man consider the manner, the inordinate and over-eager way of procuring them. How much pretious time hast thou spent which can never be recal'd againe, for one houre whereof a tormented soule in Hell would part with all the World if hee had the disposall of it, to bee but so small a space within the possibilties of salvation againe, how much of this pretious time hast thou spent for that which is no bread, and which satisfieth not? How many golden opportunities of increasing the graces of thy soule, of feeding thy faith with more noble and heavenly Contemplations on Gods trueth and promises, on his Name and Attributes, on his Word and Worship, of rouzing up thy Soule from the sleepe of sinne, of stirring up and new enflaming thy spirituall gifts, of addressing thy selfe to a more serious, assiduous, durable communion with thy God, of mourning for thine owne cor-

• ονίς ιερού
πατέρος α·
μελέσι τοῦ
Ιησοῦ. ἵψασαι
γε ἀνθρώπου
εγκείων γε
μετανοεῖσθαι
εργάσαι τὸν
ιαυτοῦ φυ-
γεῖν. Chrys.
ad pop. An-
toch. hom. 2

rup-

ruptions, of groaning and thirsting after heavenly promises, of renewing thy vowes and resolutions, of besieging and besetting Heaven with thy more ardent and retired prayers, of humbling thy selfe before thy God, of bewayling the calamities, the stonnes, the dust of Sion, of deprecating and repelling approaching Judgements, of glorifying God in all his wayes, things of pretious, spirituall and everlasting consequence, how many of these golden opportunities hath thy too much absurd love and attendance on the World stolne from thee? And surely to a Soule enlightened these must needs be matters of much vexation. Thirdly, if a man consider *the use* hee hath made of them: How they have stolne away his heart from trusting in God to relye on them; how they have diverted his thoughts from the life to come, and bewitched him to dote on present contentments; to love life, to feare death,
to

to dispense with much unjust liberty, to gather rust and securitie in Gods worship? How much excesse and intemperance they have provoked, how little of them have been spent on Gods Glory and Church, how small a portion wee have repayed him in his Ministers or in his Members? how few naked backes they have clothed? how few emptie bellies they have filled? how few languishing bowels they have refreshed? how few good workes and services they have rewarded? These are considerations which unto sensible consciences must sometime or other beget much Vexation. Fourthly, if a man consider his owne former *experiencies*, or the *examples* of others that bring the vanitie of these earthly things into minde. How some of his choyest pleasures have now out-lived him and are expired; how the Lord hath snatched from his dearest embracements those Idols which were set up against

against his glory ; how many of his hopes have fayled, of his expectati-
ons and presumptions proved ab-
ortive ; how much money at one
time a Sicknesse, at another a suit,
at a third a Thiefe, at a fourth a
Shipwracke or miscarriage, at a fist,
yea at a twentieth time a lust hath
consumed and eaten out? How ma-
ny examples there are in the world
of withered and blasted estates, of
the Curse of God not onely like a
Moth insensibly consuming, but like
a Lion suddenly tearing asunder
great possessions.

The last Degree of Vexation from
the Creature is from the Disposing
of them. All Creatures, sinners
especially , that have no hope or
portion in another life, doe natu-
rally love *a present earthly immor-
tality*: and therefore though they
cannot have it in themselves, yet as
the Philosopher saith of living crea-
tures, the reason why they generate
is, that that Immortality which
in their owne particulars they can-
not

§ 49.

not have, they may ^{as we ares} so farre as they are able, procure in the *species* or kinde which they thus preserve; so rich and worldly men, though they cannot bee immortall on the earth themselves, yet they affect an immortality in their names and dwelling places, Psal. 49. 12. and therefore they desire to transmit their substance to such successours as may have wisedome and noblenesse of minde to continue it. Now then if a man either have no heire, or one that is so active as to alter, or so carelesse and supine as to ruine all, either base to dishonour the house, or profuse to overthrow it, these and many other the like doubts must needs infinitely perplex the mindes of men, greedy to perpetuat their names and places, Ecclesiast. 2. 18. 19.

The second thing which we proposed to consider in this argument was the Grounds of this Vexation. I shall name but three. *Gods curse;*

Mans

*Mans corruption; and the Creatures
Deceitfulnessse.*

I have at large before insisted on the Curse considered alone, Now I am to shew in one word *the issuing of Vexation therefrom*. The curie of the Creature is as it were the poyson and contagion of it ; and let a man mixe poyson in the most delicate wine, it will but so much the easier, by the nimblenesse of the spirits there, invade the parts of the body, and torment the bowels. Gold of it selfe is a precious thing, but to be shackled with fetters of Gold, to have it turned into a use of bondage, addes mockery to the affliction ; and farre more precious to a particular man is a chayne of iron which drawes him out of a pit, than a chayne of Gold which clogges him in a prison; a key of iron which lets him out of a dungeon, than a barre of Gold that shuts him in. If a man should have a great Diamond curiously cut into sharpe angles, worth many thousand

§ 50.

Iob. 20. 14
16, 20. 22,
23.

sand pounds, in his bladder, no man would count him a rich, but a miserable and a dead man ; this is just the case betweene a man and the Creatures of themselves without Christ to sanctifie them unto us ; though the things bee excellent in their owne being, yet mingled with our corruptions and lusts, they are turned into poyson, into the Gall of Aspes within a man, they will not suffer him to feele any quietnes in his belly, *In the fulnesse of his sufficiencie hee shall bee in straights, and while hee is eating, the fury of wrath shall raine downe upon him.* Let a mans meat bee never so sweet in it selfe, yet if he should temper the sawce with dirt out of a sinke, it would make it altogether loathsome ; and a wicked man eats all his meat like swine wrapped up and overdawbed with dirt and curses. *A little, saith Salomon, which the righteous hath is better than great riches of the ungodly : In se it is not, but Quoad hominem, in regard*

regard of the man it is : for that little which a righteous man hath is to him an experience of Gods Promise, a branch of his love, a meanes of thankefull affections in him, a *viaticum* unto Heaven ; whereas the wicked mans abundance turnes into his greater curse, their table becomes their snare , and those things which should have been for their good prove unto them an occasion of falling. God makes his Sunne to shine on the just and on the unjust, on a garden of spices, & on a dunghill : but in the one it begetteth a sweet favour of praise and obedience, in the other it rayseth up roysome lusts , which prove a favour unto death . And who had not rather bee free in a cottage, than condemn'd in a palace ? Saint Paul distinguisheth of a Reward and a Dispensation. If I preach the Gos- pell willingly, I have a Reward; if agairst my will, a Dispensation is committed unto mee , Wee may appy it to our purpose. Those

H good

Psalm. 69.
22.

1. Cor. 9. 17

good things which the faithfull enjoy though but small, are yet Rewards and Accessions unto the Kingdome of God and his righteousness, and so long they bring joy and peace with them; but unto the wicked they are merely a Dispensation, they have onely the burden and busynesse, not the Reward nor benediction of the Creature.

§ 51.
Tit. 1.15.
Hag. 2.12,
13,14.
Rev. 10.9.

The second Ground is the *Corruption of nature*, which maketh bitter and unclean every thing that toucheth it. It polluteth holy flesh, much more will it pollute ordinary things. Wee reade of a Roule which was sweet in the mouth, but bitternesse in the belly: Such are the Creatures; In the bowels of men, their hearts and consciences (which are the Seminaries of Corruption) they turne into Gall, however in the mouth they have some smatch of honey in them. For this is a constant Rule, *Then only doth the Creature satisfie a man when it is fute-table*

able to his occasions and necessities. The Reason why the same proportion is unsufficient for a Prince, which is abundant for a privat man, is because the occasions of the prince are more vast, massie, and numerous than the occasions of a privat man. Now the desires and occasions of a man in Christ, that doth not ransacke the Creature for happiness, are limited and shortened, whereas another mans are still at large: for he is in a way, his eye is upon an end, hee useth the world but as an Inne, and no man that travels homeward wil multiply busynesses unnecessarily upon himselfe in the way. In his house he can finde sundry employments to busie himselfe about, the education of his children, the governement of his family, the managing of his estate are able to fill up all his thoughts, whereas in the Inne he cares for nothing but his refreshment & rest: So here, The faithful make their home their busynesse, how to have their

conversation in Heaven, how to have a free and comfortable use of the food of life, how to relish the mercies of God, how to governe their evill hearts, how to please God their Father and Christ their Husband, how to secure their interest in their expected inheritance, how to thrive in grace, to be rich in good works, to purchase to themselves a further degree of glory, how to entaile their spirituall riches to their posterity in a pious education of their children, these are their employments: the things of this life are not matters of their *Home*, but onely comfortable refreshments in the *way*, which therefore they use not as their grand occasions to create busynesses to them, but onely as interims and necessary respites. So that hereby their occasions being few and narrow, those things which they heere enjoy are unto those occasions largely suteable, and by consequent very satisfactorie unto their desires. But worldly

*Solatia non
negotia.*

worldly men are here at home, they have their portion in this life : here-upon their desires are vast, and their occasions springing out of those desires, infinite. A man in the right way finds at last an end to his journey, but hee that is out of the way wanders infinitely without any successe. Rest is that which the desires and wings of the soule do still carry men upon. Now the faithful being alwayes in the way, do with comfort goe on, though it be per-adventure deep and heavy, because they are sure it will bring them home at last ; but wicked men in a fairer way are never satisfied, because they have not before them that rest which their soule desires. *For inordinate lusts are ever infinite.* What made the heathen burne in lust one towards another, but because the way of *Nature* is finite, but the way of *Sinne* infinite? What made Nero that wicked Emperour have an officer about him, who was called *Arbiter Neroniana libidinis*,

is ποιησις τ
'αρδερον
Α'πλεστρο
Α'πλερον
τικοδυνα
θητε. αρ-
στο. polit. l.
c.y.
Tacit. AN-
nal. L. 16. 2

Eis Aπειρον
αυξεντι
καιματιδε-
μενος τον
μηρυκ. Arist.
polis. I. 1. c. 9

libidinis, the Inventer and Contriver of new wayes of uncleannessse, but because lust is infinite? What made *Messalina* that prodigie of women, whom I presume Saint Paul had a particular relation to, Rom. I. 26. *Profluere ad incognitas libidines*, as the Historian speaks, prostitute her selfe with greedines unto unnaturall and unknowne abominations, but because lust is infinite? What makes the ambitious man never leave climbing, till hee build a nest in t he Starres; the covetous man never leave scraping , till hee fill bagges, and chests , and houses, and yet can never fill the hell of his owne desires, the Epicure never cease swallowing , and spewing, and staggering, and inventing new arts of catches, and rounds and healths, and caps, and measures, and damnation ; the swearer finde out new godsto invoke, and have change of oathes as it were of fashions ; the superstitious Traveller runne from England to Rhemes, and

from thence to Rome, and from Rome to Loretto, and after that to Jerusalem to worship the milke of our Lady; or the cratch and tomb of our Saviour, or the nayles of his Crosse, or the print of his feet, and I know not what other fond delusions of silly men, who had rather finde salvation any where than in the *Scriptures*; What is the reason of these and infinite the like absurdities, but because *Lust* is infinite? and infinite Lust will breed infinite occasions; and infinite occasions will require infinite wealth, and infinite wit, and infinite strength, and infinite instruments to bring them about: and this must needs beget much *Vexation* of mind, not to have our possessions in any measure proportionable to our occasions.

The third and last ground is the *Creatures* *deceitfulnessse*, there is no one thing will more disquiet the minde than to be defeated. Those things wherein men feare miscarriage, or expect disappointment, they

§ 52.

prepare such a disposition of minde
as may be fit to beare it: but when
a man is surprized with evill, *the no-
vельty encreaseth the vexation.* And
therefore the Scripture useth to ex-
preſſe the greatnessſe of a judge-
ment by the unexpēctedneſſe of it :
*When thon diſtirrable things which
we loſked not for.* The unexpēctance
doth adde unto the Torment. A
breach in an iſtant, a momentary,
a ſudden deſtruclion, a ſwift dam-
nation, a flying roule, a winged wo-
man; ſuch are the expreſſions of a
ſevere Judgement. And therefore
it was a wiſe obſervation which
Tacitus made of a great Romane,
hee was *Ambiguarum rerum ſciens
eoque intrepidus:* Hee forefaw, and
by conſequence was not ſo much
troubled with evill events, as thoſe
whom they did ſurprize. Now
men are apt to promise themſelves
much contentinent in the fruition of
earthly things, like the foole in the
Parable, and to be herin disappointed
is the ground of much vexation.

When

Eſai.64.3.
Eſai.30.13
Eſai.47.9
Pſal.18.9.
2.Pet.3.1.
Zech.5.2,9

When a man travels in a deep way
and sees before him a large smooth
plaine, hee presumes that will re-
compence the toyle hee was for-
merly put to ; but when hee comes
to it, and findes it as rotten, as
full of sloughes, and bogges and
quagmires as his former way, his
trouble is the more multiplied, be-
cause his hopes are deceived. The
Divell and the World beget in
mens mindes large hopes, and make
profuse promises to those that will
worship them ; and a man at a di-
stance sees abundance of pleasure
and happiness in riches, honours,
high places, eminent imployments,
and the like ; but when he hath
his hearts desire, and peradventure
hath out-climb'd the very modesty
of his former wishes, hath ventur'd
to breake through many a hedge, to
make gaps through Gods Law and
his owne Conscience, that he might
by shorter passages hasten to the
Idoll hee so much worshipped, hee
findes at last that there was more

H 5 trouble

*clem. Alex.
in Pedag.
li. 3 .ca. 2.*

trouble in the fruition, than expectation at the distance ; that all this is but like the *Egyptian Temples*, where through a stately frontispice and magnificent structure a man came with much preparations of reverence and worship but to the image of an ugly ape, the ridiculous Idoll of that people. A man comes to the world as to a Lotterie with a head full of hopes and projects to get a prize, and returnes with a heart full of blankes, utterly deluded in his expectation. The world useth a man as Ivie doth an Oke, the closer it gets to the heart, the more it clings and twists about the affections (though it seeme to promise and flatter much) yet it doth indeed but eat out his real substance and choake him in the embraces.

¶ 53.

First then , they *deceive our Judgements*, make us thinke better of them than they deserve ; they deale with us as the Philistins with Sampson, they beginne at our eyes.

Thus

Thus the Divell beganne to beguile Eve, When shee saw that the Tree was good, and pleasant to the eyes, then being thus first deceived, shee became a transgressor: and thus Esau disputes himselfe out of his Birth-right; I am at the point of death, the pottage will make mee live, the Birth-right will not goe into the grave with me; I will prefferre my life before my priviledge.

Secondly, they *deceive our hopes and expectations.* Achan promised himselfe much happinesse in a wedge of Gold and Babylonish garment; but they were denoted and cursed things, they did not onely deceive him, but undoe him; The wedge of gold (if I may so speake) did serve to no other purpose but to cleave asunder his soule from his body, and the Babylonish garment but for a shroud. Gebezies presumptions were vast, and the bargaine he thought very easie, to buy garments, and olive yards, and

Gen. 3.6.
1.Tim.2.14

Gen. 25.32

§ 30.

and vine-yards, and sheepe, and oxen, and man-servants and maid-servants, at the price of an officious and mercenary lye, he thought hee had provided well for his posterity by the reward of *Naaman*; but the event proves quite contrary, hee provided nothing but alesprosie for himselfe and his seed for ever.

¶ 55.

Luk. 12.10 They deceive our hopes in respect of *Good*; *Ezck. 28.9.* They promise long life, and yet the same night a mans soule is taken from him, and they the instruments of that calamitie. How many men have perished by their honours? How many have beeene eaten up by their pleasures? How many hath the greedy desire of wealth powred out into the grave? They promise peace and safety (as wee see how Israel boasted in their mountaines, confederacies, supplies from Egypt and Assyria, in their owne counsels and inventions) and yet all these end in shame and disappointment; They promise bestie

Icr. 2.5.6.

Hos. 1.6.

Elay 47. 8.

11.

Job 6.19,

20.

berty, and yet make men slaves unto
vile lusts : they promise fitnesse for
Gods service , and nothing more
apt to make men forget him or his
worship : Thus all those phantasti-
call felicities, which men build up-
on the Creature, prove in the end
to have been nothing else but the
banquet of a dreaming man, no-
thing but lies and vanity in the con-
clusion.

Lastly, They deceive us likewise
in respect of evill. No Creatures,
however they may promise Immu-
nity and deliverance , can doe a
man any good when the Lord will
bee pleased to send evill upon him.
And yet it is not for nothing that
a truth so universally confessed
should yet be repeated in the scrip-
ture, That silver, and gold, and cor-
rupible things are not a fit price for
the soules of men. Doubtless the
hol' y men of God foresaw a time
when false Christs, and false Pro-
phets should come into the world,
which should set salvation to sale,
and

Psal. 62.9.
Hos. 10.13
Jer. 16.19.

§ 56.

1. Pet. 1.18
Psal. 49.7.8

Rev. 18.13

Prov.11.4.
10,2.
Ezek.7.19
Zeph.1.18

Ezay.28.
14.15.

and make merchandise of the Souls of men (as wee see at this day in popish Indulgencies, and Pennance and the like no lesse ridiculous than impious superstitions.) Neither is it for nothing, that Salomon tells us, *That riches, yea whole Treasures doe not profit in the day of death*: a speech repeated by two Prophets after him. For surely those holy men knew how apt wealth and greatness is to bewitch a man with conceits of immortality, as hath beene shewed. Who were they that made a covenant with death, and were at an agreement with hell to passe from them, but the scornefull men, the rulers of the people, which had abundance of wealth and honour? Who were they that did put farre away the evill day, and in despite of the Prophets threatenings did flatter themselves in the conceit of their firme and inconcussible estate, but they who were at ease in Sion, who trusted upon the

Moun.

Mountaines of Samaria, who lay upon beds of Ivory, and stretched themselves upon their Couches. Yet wee see all this was but deceit, they goe captive with the first of those that got captive , and the banquet of them that stretched themselves is remooved. All earthly supports without God are but like a stately house on the sand, without a foundation ; a man shall bee buried in his owne pride. He that is strong shall bee to seeke of his strength , hee that is mightie and should deliver others , shall bee too weake for his owne defence; hee that is swift shall bee amazed, and not dare to fly; if he be a bow-man, at a great distance, if he bee a rider and have a great advantage, hee shall yet bee overtaken, and hee that is couragious, and adventures to stand out, shall bee fain to flye away naked at the last. What ever hopes or refuges any Creature can afford a man in these troubles, they are nothing but froth

Amos 6.1.7

Amos 2.14
16.Amos 9.3.
5.Obad.ver.
3.9.
Esai.57.13.
Ier.2.28.
Deut.32.
37.42.
Icr.11. 12.

Esa.10.3.4.
Ezek.22.14
Ier.4.30.
Esa.31.3.

froth and vanitie, the Lord challenges and derides them all. And the Prophet *Esay* gives a sound reason of it all. *The Egyptians are men and not God, and their bones are flesh and not spirit: when the Lord shall stretch out his hand, both hee that helpeth, shall fall, and hee that is holpen shall fall downe, and they all shall fayle together.*

¶ 57.

Before wee proceed to the last thing proposed; here is a question to be answered. If the Creatures bee so full of Vexation, It should seeme that it is unprofitable, and by consequence unlawfull either to labour or to pray for them. Which yet is plainly contrary to Christ's direction, Give us our dayly bread, and contrary to the practice of the Saints who use to call for the fatnesse of the earth and dew of heaven, peace of walls and prosperity of Palaces upon those whom they blesse.

To which I answer. That which is evill by accident doth not preju dice

dice that which is good in it selfe
and by Gods Ordination. Now
the Vexation which hath beene
spoken of, is not an effect flowing
naturally out of the condition of
the Creature, but ariseth merely
by accident, upon the reason of its
separation from God, who at first
did appoint his owne blessed com-
munion to goe along with his
Creatures. Now things which are
good in themselves, but accidentally
evill may justly bee the object
of our prayers and endeavours:
And so on the other side, many
things there are which in them-
selves alone are evill, yet by the
providence and disposition of God
they have a good issue, they worke
together for the best to them that
love God. It was good for *David*
that hee had beene afflicted: yet
wee may not lawfully pray for such
evils on our selves or others, upon
presumption of Gods goodness to
turne them to the best. Who
doubts that the calamities of the
Church

Church doe at this time stirre up the harts of men to seeke the Lord and his face, and to walke humbly and fearfully before him: yet that man should bee a curse and prodigie in the eyes of God and men, who should still pray for the calamities of Sion, and to see the stones of Jerusalem still in the dust. Death is in it selfe an evill thing (for the Apostle calls it *an enemy*, 1. Cor. 15.) yet by the infinite power and mercy of God, who delights to bring good out of evill, and beauty out of ashes, it hath not onely the sting taken away, but is made an enterance into Gods owne presence, with reference unto which benefit, the Apostle desireth *to bee dissolved and to be with Christ*, Phil. 1. 23. Now notwithstanding this goodnessse which death by accident brings along with it, yet being in it selfe a *Destructive thing*, wee may lawfully in the desires of our soule shrink from it and decline it. Example whereof wee have in the

the death of Christ himselfe, which was of all as the most bitter, so the most precious : and yet by reason of that bitterness which was in it, hee prayes against it, presenting unto his Father the desires of his Soule for that life which hee came to lay downe: as his obedience to his Father, and love to his Church made him most willingly embrace death, so his love to the integrity of his humane nature, and feare of so heavy pressures as he was to feele, made him as seriously to decline it. And though the Apostle did most earnestly desire to be with Christ, yet he did in the same desire decline the common rode thither through the darke passages of death, 2. Cor.

5.4. Unlawfull indeed it is for any man to pray universally against death, because that were to withstand the Statutes of God, Heb.9.27. but against any particular danger wee may, as *Ezechiah* did, 1 King.20.1,2. reserving still a generall submission to the wil and decrees

crees of God. For wee are bound in such a case to use all good meanes, and to pray for Gods blessing upon them, which amounts to a prayer against the danger it selfe. So then, by the Rule of contraries, though the Creatures be full of Vanitie and vexation, yet this must not swallow up the apprehension of that goodness which God hath put into them, nor put off the desires of men from seeking them of God in those just prayers which hee hath prescribed, and in those lawfull endevours which hee hath commanded and allowed.

§ 58.

The third thing proposed was the consideration of that *Vse* which wee shoulde make of this Vexation of the Creature. And first, the consideration thereof mingled with Faith in the heart must needs work humiliation in the spirit of a man, upon the sight of those sins which have so much defaced the good Creatures of God. Sinne was the first thing that did pester the earth with

with thornes, Gen. 3. 17, 18. and hath fill'd all the Creation with vanity and bondage. Sinne is the ulcer of the soule ; touch a wound with the softest Lawne, and there will smart arise; so though the Creatures be never so harmlesse, yet as soone as they come to the heart of a man, there is so much sinne and corruption there, as must needs beget paine to the Soule. The palate, prepossess'd with a bitter humour, findes its owne distemper in the sweetest meat it tastes ; so the soule having the ground of bitternesse in it selfe findes the same affection in every thing that comes neare it. Death it selfe, though it bee none of Gods workes, but the shame and deformitie of the Creature, yet without sinne it hath no sting in it, I. Cor. 15. 55. how much lesse sting, thinke wee, have those things which were made for the comforts of mans life, if sinne were not the Serpent that did lurke under them all? Doest thou then in thy swiftest careere

careere of earthly delights, when thou art positing in the wayes of thy heart, and in the sight of thine eyes, feele a curbe privily galling thy conscience, a secret dampe sea-
zing upon thy soule, and affrighting it with dismal suspicions and trembling preoccupations of attending judgements, see a hand against the wall writing bitter things a-
gainst thee ? Dost thou in all thy lawfull Callings finde much sweat of brow, much toyle of braine, much plunging of thoughts, much care of heart in compassing thy just and lawfull intendments ? Doe not lose the opportunity of that good which all this may suggest unto thee, take advantage to fish in this troubled water. Cer-
tainely, there is some *Jonah* that hath raysed this storne, there is some sinne or other that hath caused all this trouble to thy soule. Do not repine at Gods providence, nor quarrell with the dumbe Creatures but let thine indignation reflect up-
on

on thine owne heart ; and as ever thou hopest to have the sweat of thy brow abated , or the care of thy heart remitted, or the curse of the Creature removed, cast thy self downe before God, throw out thy sinne, awake thy Saviour with the cry of thy repentance, and all the stormes will bee suddenly calmed. Certainly the more power any man hath over the corruption of his Nature, the lesse power hath the sting of any Creature over his heart. Though thou hast but a dinner of herbes with a quiet conscience, reconciled unto God , thou doest therein finde more sweetnesse than in a fatted Ox with the contentions of a troubled heart. When ever therefore wee finde this Thorne in the Creature, wee should throw our selves downe before God, and in some such manner as this bewaile the sinne of our heart, which is the root of that Thorne. Lord, thou art a God of peace and beauty, and what ever comes from thee must

must needs originally have peace and beauty in it. The Earth was a Paradise when thou didst first bestow it upon mee, but my sinne hath turned it into a Desert, and curs'd all the increase thereof with Thornes. The honour which thou gavest mee was a glorious attribute, a sparkle of thine owne fire, a beam of thine owne light, an imprese of thine owne Image, a character o^f thine owne power; but my sinne hath put a Thorne into mine honour, my greedinesse when I look upward to get higher, and my giddiness when I looke downward for feare of falling, never leaves my heart without anguish & vexation. The pleasure which thou allowest mee to injoy is full of sweet refreshment, but my sinne hath put a Thorne into this likewise; my excessse and sensuality hath so choaked thy Word, so stifled all seeds of noblenesse in my minde, so like a Canker overgrowne all my precious time, stolne away all opportunities

ties of grace, melted and wasted all my strength, that now my refreshments are become my diseases. The Riches, which thou ga-vest mee, as they come from thee, are soveraigne blessings, wherewith I might abundantly have glorified thy Name, and served thy Church, and supplyed thy Saints, and made the eyesthat saw mee to blesse me, and the eares that heard me to bear witnesse to mee , wherewith I might have covered the naked backe , and cured the bleeding woundes , and filled the hungry bowels, and satisfied the fainting desires of mine owne Saviour in his distressed members : but my sinne hath put in so many Thornes of pride, hardnesse of heart,uncom-passionatenesse, endlesse cares, securitie and resolutions of sinne, and the like, as are ready to pierce me thorow with many sorrowes. The Calling wherein thou hast placed mee is honest and profitable to men wherein I might spend my time in
I glorifying

glorifying thy Name, in obedience to thy will, in attendance on thy blessings ; but my sinne hath brought so much ignorance and inapprehension upon my understanding , so much weaknesse upon my body , so much intricate-nesse upon my employments, so much rust and sluggishnesse upon my faculties , so much earthly-mindednesse upon my heart, as that I am not able without much discomfort to goe on in my calling. Al thy Creatures are of themselves full of honour and beauty, the beames and glimpes of thine owne glory; but our sinne hath stained the beauty of thine owne handie-worke, so that now thy wrath is as well revealed from Heaven as thy glory, wee now see in them the prints as well of thy terrors as of thy goodness.

And now, Lord, I doe in humblenesse of heart truely abhorre my selfe , and abominate those cursed sinnes, which have
not

not onely defiled mine owne nature and person, but have spread deformitie and confusion upon all those Creatures, in which thine owne wisedome and power had planted so great a beauty, and so sweter an order. After some such manner as this ought the consideration of the thornynesse of the Creature humble us in the sight of those sinnes which are the roots thereof.

§ 59.

Secondly, the consideration hereof should make us wise to prevent those cares which the creatures are so apt to beget in the heart: those I meane which are branches of the Vexation of the Creature. There is a twofold Care, Regular, and Irregular. Care is then Regular: First, when it hath a Right end, such as is both suitable with, and subordinate to our maine end, the kingdome of God and his righteousnesse. Secondly, when the meanes of procuring that end are right; for wee may not doe evill

*Aug.de
Mendac.ad
Consent.l.*

to effect Good. Recovery was a lawfull end which *Abaziah* did propose, but to enquire of *Baalzebub* was a meane which did poyson the whole busynesse; nay Saint *Austine* is resolute, that if it were possible by an officious lie to compasse the redemption of the whole world, yet so weighty and universall a good must rather be let fall, than brought about by the smallest evill. Thirdly, when the manner of it is good, and that is, first, when the Care is moderate, Phil. 4. 5, 6. Secondly, when it is with submission to the will and wisedome of God; when wee can with comfort of heart, and with much confidence of a happy issue recommend every thing that concernes us to his providence and disposall, can be content to have our humours mastered, and conceits captivated to his obediencie, when wee can with *David* resolve not to torment our hearts with needlesse and endlesse projects, but to rowle our selves upon

on Gods protection. If I shall find favour in his eyes, hee will bring me againe, and shew mee both the Arke and his habitation; But if hee say thus unto mee, I have no delight in thee, let him doe to mee as seemeth good unto him. Such was the resolution of *Els*, It is she Lord, let him doe what seemeth him good. Such the submission of the disciples of Cæsarea, when they could not perswade *Paul* to stay from Jerusalem, *The will of the Lord be done*. Cleane contrary to that wicked resolution of the king of Israel in the famine, *This evill is of the Lord, what should I wait for the Lord any longer?* Now in this respect care is not a vexation, but a duty; hee is worse than an Infidell that provides not for his owne. Our Saviour himself had a bag in his family, and *Salomon* sends foolish and improvident men unto the smallest Creatures to learne this care, Prog. 6.8.

That Care then which is a branch

I 3 of

2.Sa.15.25

26.

1Sam.3,18.

Act.21.12,

14.

2.King.6

33.

1.Tim.5.8.

of this Vexation is not ~~everall~~ but
meane, a cutting, dividing, distra-
eting care, against which we ought
the rather to strive, not onely be-
cause it is so apt to arise from the
Creature coupling in with the cor-
ruption of mans heart, but also be-
cause of its owne evill quality, it
being both *Superfluous* and *sinfull*.
First, *Irregular cares* are *superflu-*
ous, and improper to the ends
which wee direct them upon, and
that not to our maine end onely,
Happiness, which men toyling to
discover in the Creature where it is
not, doe instead thereof finde no-
thing but trouble and vexation;
but even to those lower ends which
the Creatures are proper and sute-
able unto. For *unto us* properly
belongsthe *Industry*, but *unto God*
the care, unto us the labour and use
of meanes, but unto God the bles-
sing and successe of all. Though
Paul plant and *Apollo* waters, it is
God onely that can give the en-
crease, hee must bee trusted with
the

the events of all our industry. Peter never began to sinke till hee began to doubt, that was the fruit of his carking and unbelieve. Which of you by taking thought can adde one cubite to his stature , sayth Christ, our cares can never bring to passe our smallest desires; because I say the care of events was ever Gods prerogative and belonged wholly to his providence. Upon him wee must cast our care, upon him wee must unlode our burdens, and hee will sustaine us. Wee are all of one family, of the houshold of God and of faith, now wee know children are not to lay up for parents, but parents for children. If wee should see a childe eark and toyle for his living , wee should presently conclude that hee was left to the wide world , and had no father to provide for him; and that is our Saviours argument, *Take no thought, for your heavenly Father knoweth you have need of these things.* Let us therefore learne to

Mat.14.28

Luk.12.35

I.Pet.5.7

Psal.55.21

Eph. 2.19
Gal.6. 10

Mar.6. 32

Heb. 13.5.
Dan. 3.17.

1 Sa. 30.6.

2. Chron.
14.11, 12.
1. Chron.
16.9.

Num. 14.11

Psal. 78.19,
20.
Psal. 106.24
Gen. 4.13.

cast our selves upon God. First, *In Faith*, depending upon the truth of his promises, *Hee hath sayd I will not fail thee, nor forsake thee,* and upon the *All sufficiency of his Power*, our God whom wee serve is able to deliver us. This was that which comforted David in that bitter distresse, when Zinglag was burnt by the Amalekites, his Wives taken captive and himselfe readie to bee stoned by the people, *Hee encouraged himselfe in the Lord his God.* This was that which delivered Asa from the huge hoste of the Lubims and Ethiopians, because hee rested on God; and all which afterwards hee got by his diffidence and carnall projects, was to purchase to himselfe perpetuall warres. That which grieved the Lord with his people in the Wilderness was their distrust of his power and protection, *Can hee spread a table in the Wilderness?* *Can hee give bread also and flesh for his people?* And indeed as Caines de-

despair, so in some proportion, any fainting under temptation, any discontent with our estate, proceed from this, that wee measure God by our selves, that wee conceive of his power onely by those issues and wayes of escape which we are by our owne wisedomes able to forecast, and when wee are so straitned that wee can see no way to turne, there we give over trusting God, as if our sinnes were greater than could be forgiven, or our afflictions than could be removed. It is therefore a notable meanes of establishing the heart in all estates, to have the eye of Fayth fixed upon the power of God, to consider that his thoughts and contrivances are as much above ours, as Heaven is above the Earth ; and therefore to resolve with *Iehosaphat*, that when wee know not what to doe, yet we will have our eyes upon him still. Sonne of man, saith the Lord to *Ezekiel*, can these dead bones live ? and hee answered, O Lord God thou

Ezek.37.11

Esay.49,

24,25.

Hab.3.3 18

Zec.4.6.10

Esa.55.8.

12.

Hos.11.9.

2.Chrō.20

6,12.

Ezek.37.3.

Mar. 10,
26, 27.

Phil. 4, 5, 6,
7.

knowest. Thy thoughts are above our thoughts: and where things are to us impossible, they are easie unto thee. Secondly, by *Prayer*. This is a maine remedy against carefull thoughts. When the Apostle had exhorted the Philippians, that their Moderation, that is, their Equanimity and calmenesse of minde in regard of outward things, should bee knowne unto all men, hee presseth it with this excellent reason, *The Lord is at hand*, hee is ever at home in his owne family, hee is neare to see the wants, and to heare the cries of all that come unto him; therefore sayth hee, *Bee carefull for nothing, but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving* (thanksgiving for what you have, and prayer for what you want) *let your requests bee made knowne unto God*, and hee shal furnish you with peace in all estates.

A remarkable example of which promise wee have in An-

at the Mother of *Samuel*; In the bitternesse of her soule shee wept, and did not eat (namely of the Sacrifices, which were to bee eaten with rejoicing) then shee prayed, and vowed a vow unto the Lord, and having cast her cares upon him shee then went her way, and did eat, and her countenance was no more sad. *Ezekiel* in his sicknesse chattered like a Swallow, and mourned as a Dove; but after his Prayer hee sung songs of deliverance to the stringed instruments. *Habakkuk* before his prayer trembled, but after his prayer hee triumphed in the midst of death. *David* full of heaviness and of groanings in his prayer, but after as full of comfort against all his enemies.

Secondly, as Irregular Cares are needlesse and superfluous, so they are sinnefull too. First, In regard of their object, they are worldly cares, the cares of the men of this world: therein wee declare our selves.

I. Sam. I. 7
10, 18.
I. Chron.
29, 9.
Deut. 12. 18
Deu. 23. 47
Mal. 2. 13.

Isay 38. 14
20.

Hab. 3. 2. 16
18, 19

Psal. 6. 69.

§ 61.

Eph. 4, 17.
Mat. 6, 32.

Ioh. 15, 19.
1. Cor. 2, 12
Rom. 12, 2.
Psal. 4, 3
Tit. 2, 14.
1. Pet. 2, 9
Cyprian.

selves to walke in conformitie to the Gentiles, as if wee had no better foundation of quietnesse and contentment than the heathen which know not God. And this is Christs argument, after all these things doe *the Gentiles seeke*. Wee are taken out of the World, wee have not received the spirit of the world, and therefore wee must not bee conforinable unto the world, nor bring forth the fruits of a worldly spirit, but walke as men that are set apart, as a peculiar people, and that have heavenly promises, and the Grace of God to establish our hearts. *Illiterrena sapient qui promissa ecclesia non habent*, It is seemly for those alone, who have no other portion but in this life, to fixe their thoughts and cares heere. Secondly, they are sinnefull in regard of their *Causes*, and they are principally two : First, *Inordinate lust or coveting*, the running of the heart after covetousnesse; Secondly, *Distrust of Gods Providence*, for

for those desires which spring from lust can never have faith to secure the heart in the expectation of them Lastly, they are sinnefull in their Effects. First, They are *murthering cares*, they worke sadness, suspicions, uncomforablenesse, and at last death. Secondly, they are *Choking cares*, they take off the heart from the Word, and thereby make it unfruitfull. Thirdly, they are *Adulterous cares*, they steale away the heart from God, and set a man at enmity against him. In all which respects wee ought to arme our selves against them.

Which that wee may the better doe, wee will in the last place propose two sorts of directions: First, *How to make the Creature no vexing Creature*. Secondly, *How to use it as a vexing Creature*: for the former. First, *Pray for conveniency*, for that which is suteable to thy minde, I meane not to the lusts, but to the abilities of thy minde. Labour ever to sute thy occasions to thy

Iam.4.3.

2.Cor.7.10

Mat.13.24

Iam.4.4.

§ 62.

thy parts, and thy supplies to thy occasions. If a Ship out of greedinesse bee over-loaden with Gold, it will bee in danger of sinking, notwithstanding the capacity of the sides bee not a quartre filled; on the other side fill it to the brimme with feathers, and it will still toss up and downe, for want of due ballasting: so is it in the lives of men, some have such greedy desires, that they thinke that they can runne through all sorts of busynesse, and so never leave loading themselves, till their hearts sinke and be swallowed up with worldly sorrow and security in sinne: others set their affections on such triviall things, that though they should have the full of all their desires, their mindes would still bee as floating and unsettled as before. Resolve therefore to doe with thy selfe as men with their ships: there may a Tempest arise, when thou must be constrained to throw out all thy wares into the Sea; such were the times of the Apostles, and after bloody persecutions,

secutions, when men were put to forsake Father, Mother, Wife, Children, nay to have the ship it selfe broken to pieces, that the Marriner within might escape upon the ruines. But besides this, in the calmest and securest times of the Church, these two things thou must ever looke to, if thou tender thine owne tranquillity: First, *fill not thy selfe onely with light things.* Such are all the things of this world in themselves, besides the roome and cumberesomenesse of them (as light things take up ever the most roome) they still leave the soule floating and unsetled. Doe therefore as wise Mariners, have strong and substantiall ballasting in the bottome, faith in Gods promises, love and feare of his name, a foundation of good Workes, and then whatever becomes of thy other loading, thy ship it selfe shall bee safe at last, thou shalt be sure in the greatest tempest to have thy life for a prey. Secondly, *Consider she bur-*

den

den of thy Vessel; all ships are not of an equall capacity, and they must bee fraughted, and mann'd, and victualled with proportion to their burden. All men have not the same abilities, some have such a measure of grace as enables them with much wisedome and improvement to manage such an estate as would puffe up another with pride, sensualitie, superciliousnesse and forgetfulness of God. Againe, some men are fitted to some kinde of employments, not to others, as some ships are for merchandise, others for war; and in these varieties of states every man should pray for that which is most suteable to his disposition and abilities, which may expose him to fewest temptations, or at least by which hee may bee most serviceable in the bodie of Christ, and bring most glory to his Master. This was the good prayer of *Agur*, give mee neither povertie nor riches, feed mee with food convenient for mee: this is that wee
all

pray, Give us *our dayly Bread*, that which is most proportioned to our condition, that which is fittest for us to have, and most advantageous to the ends of that Lord whom wee serve.

Secondly, labour ever to get Christ into thy ship, he will checke every tempest, and calme every vexation that growes upon thee. When thou shalt consider that his truth, and person, and honour is imbarkeid in the same vessell with thee, thou maiest safely resolve on one of these, either hee will bee my Pilot in the ship, or my planke in the Sea to carry me safe to Land; if I suffer in his company, and as his member, hee suffers with mee, and then I may triumph to be made any way conformable unto Christ my head. If I have Christ with mee, there can no estate come which can be cumbersome unto me. Have I a load of misery and infirmitie inward, outward, in minde, body, name or estate? this takes away the vexation

§ 63.

vexation of all, when I consider it all comes from Christ, and it all runnes into Christ. It all comes from him as the wise disposer of his owne body: & it all runs into him as the compassionat sharer w^t his own body: It all comes from him who is the distributer of his Fathers gifts, and it all runnes into him who is the partaker of his members sorrowes. If I am weake in body, Christ my head was wounded; if weake in minde, Christ my head was heavic unto death. If I suffer in my estate, Christ my head became poore, as poore as a servant; if in my name, Christ, my head was esteemed vile, as vile as Beelzebub. Paul was comforted in the greatest tempest with the presence of an Angell, how much more with the Grace of Christ? when the Thorne was in his flesh, and the buffets of Satan about his soule, yet then was his presence a plentifull protection, my Grace is sufficient for thee: and he confesseth

*1 Cor. 8. 9.
Phil. 2. 7.*

*M: r. 12. 14.
Act. 27. 23.*

*2 Cor. 12. 7,
9.*

Phil. 4. 13.

lesseth it elsewhere, I am able to doe all things through Christ, that strengthens mee. Christs head hath sanctified any thornes, his backe any furrowes, his hands any nayles, his side any speare, his heart any sorrow that can come to mine. Againe, have I a great estate, am I laden with abundance of earthly things? this takes away all the Vexation, that I have Christ with mee; his promise to sanctifie it, his wisedome to manage it, his glory to bee by it advanced, his word to bee by it maintained, his Anointed ones to bee by it supplyed, his Church to bee by it repaired, in one word his poverty to bee by it relieved. For as Christ hath strength and compassion to take off the burden of our afflictions, so hath he povertie too, to ease that vexation which may grow from our abundance. If thou hadst a whole wardrobe of cast apparell, Christ hath more nakednesse than all that can cover; if

if whole barns ful of corn, & cellars of wine, Christ hath more empty bowels than all that can fill; if all the precious drugs in a country, Christ hath more sicknes than all that can cure; if the power of a great Prince, Christ hath more imprisonment than all that can enlarge; if a whole house full of silver and gold, Christ hath more distressed members to bee comforted, more breaches in his Church to be repaired, more enemies of his Gospell to be oppos'd, more defenders of his Faith to bee supplied, more urgencies of his Kingdome to bee attended, than all that will serve for.

Matth. 15.

Christ professeth himselfe to be still hungry, naked, sicke, and in prison, and to stand in need of our visits and supplies. As all the good which Christ hath done is ours, by reason of our Communion with him, so all the evill wee suffer is Christ's, by reason of his compassion with us. The Apostle saith, that we sit together with Christ in heavenly places, & the same Apostle saith,

*Ephes. 2.6.
Col. 1.24.
Aug.*

faith, that the sufferings of Christ
are made up in his members. *Nos ibi
sedemus, & ille hic laborat.* We are
glorified in him, & he pained in us,
in all his honor we are honored, &
in all our affliction he is afflicted.

Thirdly, cast out thy *Jonah*, every sleeping and secure sinner that brings a Tempest upon thy ship, vexation to thy spirit. It may bee thou hast an execrable thing, a wedge of gold, a Babylonish garment, a bag full of unjust gaine, gotten by sacrilege, disobedience, mercilessnesse, oppression, by detaining Gods, or thy neighbours rights; It may be thou hast a *Dalila*, a strange woman in thy bosom, that brings a rot upō thine estate, & turns it al into the wages of a whore; what ever thy sicknesse, what ever thy plague bee, as thou tenderest the tranquillity of thine estate, rouse it up from its sleepe by a faithfull serious and impartial examination of thine own heart, & though it be as deare to thee as thy right eye, or thy right hand, thy choicest pleasure or thy chiefest profit,

ἥ 64.
δέ τοι ἀμερίται
, εκεῖ χαμηλόν.
ὅπερ πατερικοῦ
εἰς αὐτὸν κλυσθε-
ριού — εἰς κει-
τοι μήποτε τοῦ
Ιωάννου εἰς τὸ
πέλαγος ἐρ-
ρίψατο, καὶ εἴη
τὸ πλεῖστον ἡ-
μεῖς δὲ τὸν
ἀμερίταν κα-
ταποντίζω-
μένον καὶ στόντοντο
πάντας οὐ πό-
λις, Θέ.
Cibryost. ad
pop. Antioch.
hom. 5.

yet cast it out in an humble confession unto God, in a hearty and willing restitution unto men, in opening thy close and contracted bowels to those that never yet enjoy'd comforts from them; then shall quietnesse arise unto thy soule, and that very gaine which thou throwest away is but cast upon the waters, the Lord will provide a whale to keep it for thee, and will at last restore it thee whole againe.

§ 65.

The last direction which I shall give to remove the Vexation of the Creature is out of the Text, and that is, *To keepe it from thy Spirit*, not to suffer it to take up thy thoughts and inner man. They are not *negoria*, but *viaticas* onely, and a mans heart ought to be upon his businesse, and not upon matters accidentall. If in a tempest men should not addresse themselves to their offices, to loose the tacklings, to draw the pumpe, to strike sailes, and lighten the vessel, but should make it their sole worke to gaze upon

on their commodities, who could expect that a calme should droppe into such mens laps? Beloved, when the Creature hath raised a tempest of Vexation, thinke upon your offices; to the pumpe, to powre out thy corruptions; to the sailes and tackling, abate thy lusts and the provisions of them: to thy fayth, to live above hope; to thy patience, It is the Lord, let him doe as seemeth good to him; to thy thankfulness; the Lord giveth, and the Lord taketh away, Blessed be the name of the Lord. If Job should have gazed on his children or substance, hee might have been swallowed up in the storme; but God was in his heart, and so the vessell was still safe. But what is it to keep the Creature from the spirit? It is in the phrase of Scripture, *Not to set the Heart upon riches.* Apponere Cor, to carry a mans heart to the Creature, the Prophet gives a fit expression of it when hee saith, *That the heart doth goe after covetousnesse,*

Psal, 62.10

consesse; when a man makes all the motions of his soule wait upon his lusts, and drudgeth for them, and bringeth his heart to the edge of the Creature: for the world doth not wound the heart, but the heart woundeth it selfe upon the world. As it is not the rock alone that dasheth the ship, without its own motion being first tossed by the winde and waves upon the rocke; so it is a mans owne lust which vexeth his spirit, and not the things alone which he possessest.

*Nec vulnus
adactis de-
betur gla-
diis, percus-
sum est pe-
ctore fer-
rum. Luc.*

§ 66.

- a Mic. 2. 1.
- b Hab. 2. 10
- c Luk. 12. 17, 18.
- d Luk. 12, 29.
- e μυρτωπί^{ζας.}
- f Hos. 4. 17.
- g Rom. 13, 14.

To set the heart on the Creature denotes three things. First, to pitch a mans thoughts and studies, to direct all the restlesse enquiries of his soule upon them, and the good hee expects from them. This in the Scripture is expressed by *a Devising,* *b Consulting,* *c Thinking within ones selfe,* being tossed like a *d Meteor* with doubtfulnesse of minde and carefull suspence, *e Joyning ones selfe,* making *f Provision* for lusts, &c. Secondly, to care for, to employ a mans

mans affections of love, delight, desire upon them, to set a high price on them, and over-rate them above other things. For this cause covetous men are called *s Idolaters*, because they preferre monie, as a man doth his God, before all other things. When the women would have comforted the wife of *Phineas* with the birth of a sonne, after the captivitie of the Arke, It is said, *she regarded it not*, the Text is, *shee did not put her heart upon it*: though a woman rejoice when a man child is borne, yet in comparison of the Arke shee no more regarded the joy of a sonne, than a man would do, if the sunne should bee blotted out of heaven, and a little Starre put in the roome; and therefore, though children be the glory of their parents, yet shee professeth that there was no glory in this to have a sonne, and lose an Arke, a Starre without light, a Sonne without service, a Levite borne, and no Arke to wait upon ; And therefore shee

K did

*s Eph.5.5.
Col.3.5.*

*1.Sam.4.20
Ioh.16.21.*

Hof.9.11.

2. Sam. 18.

3.

Prov. 10.15
Psal. 49, 6.
1. Tim. 6.
17.
Jer. 9.23.

did not set her heart upon it. They will not set their hearts upon us, say the people to *David*, for thou art worth ten thousand of us; that is, they will no whit regard us in comparison of thee: so then a mans heart is set on the Creature, when he prizeth it above other things, and declareth this estimation of his heart by those eager endeavours with which hee pursueth them as his God and Idoll. Thirdly, to relie upon, to put trust and affiance in the Creature; and this is imported in the word by which the Prophet expresseth riches, which signifieth strength of all sorts, *vires*, and *propugnaculum*, the inward strength of a man, and the outward strength of munition and fortification: therefore, saith *Solomon*, the rich mans wealth is his strong city, and rich men are said to Trust and glorie in their riches, examples wherof the Scripture abundantly gives in Tyre, Babylon, Ninive, Edom, Israel, &c.

Now

§ 67.

Now a man ought not thus to set his heart on the Creature; first because of the tenderesse and delicate of the spirit, which will quickly bee bruised with any thing that lies close upon it and presseth it. As men weare the softest garments next their skinne, that they be not disquieted, so should wee apply the tenderest things, the mercies and the worth of the bloud of Christ, the promises of grace and glory, the precepts and invitations of the Spirit unto our Spirits. And now as subterraneous winde or ayre being pressed in by the earth, doth often beget concussions and earthquakes; so the spirit of a man being swallowed up and quite closed in earthly things must needs beget tremblings and distractions at last to the soule. The word here which wee translate Vexation is rendred likewise by *Contritio*, a pressing, grinding, wearing away of a thing, and by *Depastio*, a feeding on a thing, which makes some render

the words thus, *All is vanity and a feeding upon windē*. That as windy meats though they fill and swell a man up, they nourish little, but turn into crudities and diseases ; so the feeding upon the Creature may puffe up the heart, but it can bring no reall satisfaction, no solid nutriment to the Soule of man. The Creature upon the spirit is like a worme in wood, or a moth in a garment, it begets a rotteness of heart, it bites asunder the threads and sinewes of the soule, and by that meanes workes an ineptitude and undisposednesse to any worthy service, and brings a decay upon the whole man ; for cares will prevent age, and change the colour of the haire before the time, & make a man like a silly Dove, without any heart, as the Prophet speakes.

Hof.7.9.II.

§ 68 •

Secondly, because the strength of every man is his spirit; *Mens cuiusque est quisque*. Now if the Creature seaze on a mans strength, it

it serves him as *Delilah did Sampson*, it will quickly let in the Philistines to vexe him. *Strength hath Two parts or offices, Passive in undergoing and withstanding evill, and Active in doing that which belongs to a man to doe.* Now when the heart and spirit of a man is set upon any Creature, it is weakened in both these respects.

First, it is disabled from bearing or withstanding evill. Wee will consider it. First, *in temptations*; Secondly, *in afflictions*. First, a man who hath set his heart inordinate-ly upon any Creature is altogether unfit to withstand any temptation. In the Law when a man had new married a wife, hee was not to goe to warre that yeare, but to rejoice with his wife. One reason where-of, I suppose, was this, because when the minde is strongly set up-on any one object, till the strength of that desire be abated, a man will bee utterly unfit do deale with an enemie; so is it with any lust to

§ 69.

Deut. 24.5

which a man wedshimselfe, it altogether disabiles him to resist any enemy : after Hannibals Army had melted themselves at *Capua* with sensuality and luxury , they were quite strangers to hard service and rigid discipline, when they were againe reduc'd unto it.

§ 70.

Iam.1.14.
causas cor-
ruptelarum
non in ille-
cebris, sed
in cordibus
habemus, &
viciositas
nostra mens
nostra est.
*Salvi.de
Guber.1.6.*

The Reason heereof is ; first, *The subtlety of Satan*, who will be sure to proportion his temptations to the heart, and those lusts which doe there predominate, setting upon men with thos. persuasions wherewith hee is most likely to seduce them ; As the Grecians got in upon the Trojans with a *gift*, something which they presumed would finde acceptance. The devill dealeth as men in a siege, casteth his projects, and applies his batteries to the weakest and most obnoxious place. Therefore the Apostle saith, that a man is tempted, when hee is led away of his owne lusts and enticed ; the Devill will bee sure to hold intelligence with a mans owne lusts,

lusts, to advise and sit in councell
with his owne heart, to follow the
tide and stremme of a mans owne
affections in the tempting of him.

Adam tempted in ^a knowledge,
Pharaoh by lying ^b wonders, the
Prophet by the pretence of an ^c An-
gels speech, *Abab* by the consent
of ^d false Prophets, the Jewes by
the ^e Temple of the Lord and car-
nall privileges, the heathen by
pretence of ^f univerſality, and
ſ antiquitie. When *Davids* heart
after his adultery was set upon his
owne glory more than Gods, how
to ſave his owne name from re-
proach, wee ſee as long as that af-
fection prevailed againſt him, as
long as his heart was not ſo through-
ly humbled as to take the shame
of his ſinne to himſelfe, to beare
the indignation of the Lord, and ac-
cept of the reproach of his iniqui-
ty, hee was overcome with many
desperate temptations: he yeelds to
bee himſelfe a tempter of his neigh-
bour to unſeasonable pleasures, to

^a Gen. 3.5.

^b Exod. 7.

^c 22.

^c 1.King.

^d 13.18.

^d 2.Chiro.

^e 18.11.

^e Ier. 7.4.

^f Act. 19.27.

^g Act. 17.19

1.Tit.6.
9,10.

drunkennesse and shame , to be a murtherer of his faithfull servant, to multiply the guilt, that hee may shift off the shame of his sinne, and provide for his owne credit. Peters heart was set upon his owne life and safetie more than the truth of Christ or his owne protestations, and Sathan fitting his assault to this weakenesse prevaines against a Rock with the breath of a woman. They that will be rich, saith the Apostle, who set their hearts upon their riches, whose heart runne after their covetousnesse, fall into temptation and a snare, into many foolish and hurtfull lusts. Such a heart is fit for any temptation. Tempt ~~A-~~ chans covetous heart to sacrilege, and hee will reach forth his hand to the accursed thing; Tempt ~~In-~~ das his covetous heart to treason, and hee will betray the precious bloud of the Sonne of God which is infinitely beyond any rate of sil- ver or gold for a few pieces of sil- ver the price of a little field : Tempt ~~Gehe-~~

Gehazi covetous heart to multiply lie upon lie, and he will doe it with ease and greedinesse for a few pieces of money, and change of rayment; Tempt *Saul's* covetous heart with the fattest of the Cat-tell, and hee will venture on disobedience, a sin worse than witchcraft, which himselfe had rooted out: Tempt the covetous heart of a Judge in Israel to doe injustice, and a paire of shooes shall spurne righteousnesse out of doores, and pervert judgement: Tempt the covetous heart of a great oppressor to bloud and violence, and he will lye in wait for the life of his neighbour: tempt the covetous heart of a proud Pharisie or secure people, to scorne the word out of the mouth of Christ or his Prophet, and they will easily yeeld to any infidelity. The like may be said of any other lust in its kinde. If the heart be set on beauty; Tempt the Sonnes of God to forsake their covenant of marrying in the Lord, the Israelites to the

Amos 2.6.

Prov. 1.18,
19.

Luk. 16.14.
Ezek. 33.31

idolatry of Baal-Peor, Sampson to forsake his vow and calling, easily will all this be done, if the heart have the beauty of any creature as a traitor in it, to let in the temptations, and to let out the lusts. How many desperate temptations doth beauty cast many men upon? Bribery to lay downe the price of a whore, gluttonie and drunkennesse to inflame and ingenerat new lusts, contempt of the Word and Judgements of God to smother the checkes of conscience, frequenting of Sathan's palaces, playes, and strewes, the Chappels of Hell and nurseries of uncleannessse, challenges, stabbes, combats, blood, to vindicate the credit and comparisons of a strumpets beauty, to revenge the competition of uncleane Corrivals. Thus will men venture as deepe as hell to fetch fire to powre into their veines, to make their spirits frie, and their bloud boyle in abhorred lust. If the heart be set on ~~wit~~ and pride of its own conceits,

ceies, tempt the Libertines and Cyrenians to dispute against the truth, the Greekes to despise the Gospell, the wise men of the world to esteem the ordinance of God foolishnesse of preaching, the false teachers to foist their straw and stubble upon the foundation, Achitopel to comply with treason, Lusian to revile Christ, and deride religion, easily wil these and a world the like temptations bee let into the heart, if pride of wit stand at the dore and turne the locke. Whence is it that men spend their pretious abilities in frothy studies, in complements; formes and garbes of salute, satyrs, libels, abuses, prophanation of Gods Word, scorne of the simplicity and power of godlinesse, with infinite the like vanities, but because their hearts are taken up with a foolish Creature, and not with God and his feare? If the heart bee set on Ambition, tempt Corah to desperate rebellion, Absolon to unnaturall treason, Bala-

I am to curse the Church, *Diotrephes* to contemne the Apostles and their doctrine, *Indian* to Apostacie, *Arians* to heresie, the Apostles themselves to emulation and strife, easilly will one lust let in these, and a thousand more. What else is it that makes men to flatterprophanenesse, to adore golden beasts, to admire glistering abominations, to betray the truth of the Gospell, to smother and disseminate the strictnesse and purity of the wayes of God, to strike at the sinnes of men with the scabberd & not with the sword, to worke upon the fancies of men, more than their consciencies, to palliate vice, to dawbe with untempered morter, to walke in a neutralitie and adiaphorisme betweene God and *Baal*, to make the soules of men and the glory of God subordinate to their lusts and risings, but the vast and unbounded gulfe of ambition and vaine glory? The like may bee said of severall other lusts. But I proceed.

Second.

Secondly, a Heart set on any lust is unfit to withstand temptation, because temptations are commonly edged with Promises or Threatnings. Now if a mans heart bee set on God, there can no promises bee made of any such good as the heart cares for, or which might be likely to over-poise and sway to the temptation, which the heart hath not already ; spirituall promises the Divell will make few, or if hee doe , such a heart knowes that evill is not the way to good; if he make promises of earthly things , such promises the heart hath already from one who can better make them, 1.Tim.4.8. neither can hee promise any thing which was not more mine before than his ; for either that which hee promiseth is convenient for mee, and so is Manna, food for my Nature, or else Inconvenient, and then it is Quailes, food for my lust. If the former, God hath taught me to callit mine owne a'ready, give us our Bread, and not

not to goe to the Divels Market to fetch it; If the other, though God should suffer the Divell to give it, yet he sends a curse into our mouths along with it. And as such a heart neglects any promises the Divell can make, so is it as heedlesse of any of his threatenings, because if God bee on our side, neither principallities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, can ever separate from him; stronger is hee that is with us than hee that is with the world; it is the busynesse of our Calling to fight against spirituall wickednesse, and to resist the Divell. But when the heart is set on any Creature, and hath not God to rest upon, when a man attributes his wine and oyle to his lovers and not to God, his credit, wealth, subsistencie to the favours of men and not to the all-sufficiency of God, then hath the Divell an easie way to winne a man to any sinne, or withdraw him from any good, by pointing his temptations with promises

mises, or threatenings fitted to the things which the heart is set on.

Let the Divell promise *Balaam* honour and preferment, on which his ambitious heart was set, and he will rise early, runne and ride, and change natures with his Ass, and be more sensesse of Gods fury than the dumbe Creature, that he may curse Gods owne people : let the Divell promise thirty pieces of siluer to *Iudas*, whose heart ran upon covetousnesse, and there is no more scruple, the bargaine of treason is presently concluded : Let the Divell tempt *Abicha's Louise* with a little better reward than the beggerly stipend which hee had before, Theft and Idolatry are swallow'd downe both together, and the man is easily won to be a soare and seminary of spirituall uncleanesse to a whole tribe. On the other side, Let Sathan threaten *Zeroboom* with the losse of his kingdom, if he goe up to Jerusalem, and serve God in the way of his owne worship,

Hos.5. 1.

Hos.13.1.

Dan.3.6,7.

ship, and that is argument enough to draw him and all his successours to notorious and Egyptian Idolatry; and the reason was, because their hearts were more set upon their owne Counsels, than upon the worship or truth of God. Let the Divell by the edicts and ministers of *Ieroboam* lay snares in *Mizpah*, and spread nettes upon *Tabor*, that is, use lawes, menaces, subtleties to keepe the people from the city of God, and to confine them to regall and State Idolatry, presently the people tremble at the injunction of the king, and walke willingly after the Commandement. Let *Nebuchadnezzar* erect his prodigious Idoll and upon paine of a fiery furnace require all to worship it, and all people, nations, and languages are presently upon their faces. Let the Divell threaten *Demas* with persecution, and presently hee forsakes the fellowship of the Apostles, and imbraceth this present world. And as it was heretofore, so is it still.

If

If a mans heart bee not set on God, and caught to rest upon his providence, to answer all Satans promises with his All-sufficiencie to reward us, and all his threatenings, with his All-sufficiency to protect us, how easily wil promises beguile, and threatenings detaine unittable and earthly mindes? Let the Devil tell one man, All this will I give thee, if thou wilt speake in a cause to pervert judgement, how quickly will men create subtieties, and coine evasions to roba man and his house, even a man & his Inheritance? Let him say to another, I will doe whatsoever thou sayest unto mee, if thou wilt dissemble thy conscience, divide thy heart, comply with both sides, keepe downe the power of godlinesse, persecute zeale, set up Will-worship and Superstitions, how quickly shall such a mans Religion bee d squiz'd, and sincerity, if it were possible, put to shame? If to anothers
thou

thou shalke by such a time purchase
such a Lordship, ouer such a neighbour,
swallow up such a prodigall,
if thou enhaunce thy rents, enlarge
thy fines, set unreasonable rates up-
on thy Farmes, how quickly will
men grinde the faces of the poore,
and purchase ungodly possessions
with the bloud of their Tenants ?
If to another, beware of laying o-
pen thy conscience, of being too
faithfull in thy Calling, too scrup-
ulous in thy office, lest thou pur-
chase the disfavour of the World,
lest the times cloud over thee, and
frowne upon thee, lest thou bee
scourged with persecuted names,
and make thy selfe obnoxious to
spies and censures, how will men be
ready to start backe, to shrinke
from their wonted forwardnesse, to
abate their former zeale, to couple
in with, and connive at the corrup-
tions of the age, in one word to
tremble when *Ephraim* speaks, &
not when God speaks ? so hard
is it when the heart is wedded to
earthly things, and they are gotten

into a mans bosome, to bear the assaults of any temptation.

Lastly, this comes from the just and secret wrath of God, giving men over to the deceitfulness of sinne, and to the hardnessse of their owne hearts, to beleewe the lies and allurements of Satan; because they rejected the counsell of God, and the love of his truth before. In the influences of the Sunne wee may obserue, that the deeper they work the stronger they worke; the beams nearer the Center meeting in a sharper point doe consolidate and harden the very Element; so the Creatures by the Justice of God, when they meet in a mans Center, reach as farre as his heart, doe there mightily worke to the deceiving and hardning of it: the eye, nor any other outward sense, can finde no more in the Creature, than is really there; it is the heart which mis-conceives things, and attributes that Deity and worth to them, which the senses could not discover. If men then

§ 74.

2. Thes. 2.
9. 12.

then cou'd keepe these things from their spirits, they should ever conceive of them according to their own narrow being, and so keepe their hearts from that hardness which the Creatures, destitute of Gods blessing, do there beget, and so work in the soule a disposition futeable to Satans temptations.

¶ 75.
Mat.10.22

Ephes.2.3.

Secondly, *a Hears set upon any lust* is unfit likewise to beare any affliction. The young man whose heart was upon his riches, could not indure to heare of selling all, and entring upon a poore and persecuted profession. First, *Lusts*, are *choyce and daintie*, they make the heart very delicate, and nice of any assaults. Secondly, they are *very wilfull*, and set upon their owne ends, therefore they are expressed by the name of Concupisence. and *σωματικῶν θεραπειῶν*, *The Wills of the flesh*, and wilfulness is the ground of impatieney. Thirdly, they are *nathrall*, and move strongly to their own point: they are a Body, and our very

ry members ; no marvell then if they bee sensible of paine from afflictions , which are *contrary to Nature*. The stronger the water runnes , the more will it roare and come upon any opposition : Lust is like a furious beast enrag'd with the affliction, the chaine that bindes it. Fourthly, *Lusts are very wise* after a fleshly and sensuall manner , and worldly wisedome is impatient of any stoppage or prevention of any affliction that crusheth and disappoints it, therfore the Apostle doth herein principally note the opposition between heavenly, & carnal wisedome, that the one is meek, peaceable, and gentle, the other divellish and full of strife. Fifthly, *Lusts are proud*, especially those that arise from abundance of the creature, and pride being set upon by any affliction makes the heart break forth into ^b impatience, debates, and stoutnesse against God ; a proud heart growes harder by afflictions, as Metals or Clay after they have past through

Col.2.15.
& 3.5.
Heb.12.11.

Rom.3.6.

Iam.3.13.
17.
^aEzek.28.5.
Psal.10.4.
Obad.v.3.
Esay.10.12
Ier.22.21.
& 43.2.
Hos.13.6.
^bMal.3.13,
14.
Nchem.9,
29.
Ier.13,17.

c Exod. 7.
23, & 9. 17.

d Psal. 10, 6.
Ier. 21, 13.
Ezck. 28, 2.

e 2. Tim. 3. 2.

f Mat. 16,
24.
g Iam. 4. 1. 4.
i. Pet. 2. 11.
h Rom. 8. 7.
i Levit. 26,
41.
k Mic. 7, 9.
l 2. Tim. 3.
8.
Ier. 22. 21.
Zech. 7. 9,
12.
Luk. 16. 14.
Act. 7. 51.
2. Cor. 10,
35.

through the furnace. It is said of c Pharaoh that he did not set his heart to the Judgements of God, but exalted himself against his people ; Pride grew stronger by Affliction. Besides, d pride in earthly things swallowes up the very expectation of Afflictions, and therefore must needs leave the heart unprepared against them. Sixthly, Lusts are rooted in e false-love ; and therefore when Christ will have a man forsake his lusts, hee directs him to f denie himselfe. Now the very essence of Afflictions are to bee grievous and adverse to a mans selfe. Seventhly, Lusts are g contentious, armed things, and their h enmity is against God, and therefore utterly unfit to i accept of the punishment of sinne, and to k beare the indignation of the Lord, or to submit unto any afflictions. Eighthly, Lusts l resist the Truth, set up themselves against the Word, and thereby utterly disable men to beare Afflictions,

ons, for the ^m Word sanctifies, and lightens all Affliction ; the Word shewes Gods ⁿ moderation and intention in them, an ^p issue out of them the ^q benefits which wil come from them, the ^r supplies of strength and abilities to beare them, the promises of a more abundant and exceeding weight of glory, in comparison whereof they are as nothing. Lastly, if we could conceive some Afflictions not contrary to lust, yet Afflictions are ever *contrary to the provisions of lust*, to the materials and instruments of lusts, such as are health, pleasure, riches, honors, &c. And in all these respects a Heart set upon lust is weakened and disabled to beare Afflictions.

^q Psalme 119, 71. Hebr. 12. 11. ^r 2. Phil. 1. 29. Phil. 4. 12, 13. ^s Cor. 10. 13. ^t 2. Cor. 4. 17. Esay 61, 7, & 54. 8. ^c Rom. 13. 14.

Secondly, when the Heart is set upon the Creature, it is utterly disabled, in regard of its *active strength*,

^m Psal. 119.
92. 114. 143.
165.
ⁿ Ier. 30. 11.
Esay 63, 13.
Esay 28. 27.
28.
Psal. 78. 3. 8.
^o Heb. 12.
6, 10, 11.
Esay 10. 12.
^p 1. Cor.
10. 13.
Zech. 1.
16.
Esay 64.
7. 12.
Hab. 3. 17.
19.
Prov. 10.
3.
Ier. 17. 8.
^{Cor.} 12, 9.
^s 2. Cor.

§ 76.

n Deut. 6.5

x Hos. 10.2

lam. 1.8.

y Psal. 78.

37.

z Act. 7.39.

Ier. 11.10.

a Phil. 2.21

Esay. 58.11.

Ezek. 34.2.

b 2. King. 9.

7.10,10.16.

Hos. 1.4.

strength, made unfit to doe any duty with that ^u strength as God requires. First, because *Bonum sit ex causâ integrâ*: A good duty must proceed from an entire Cause, from the *whole heart*. Now ^x *lust divides the Heart*, and makes it ^y unstedfast, and unfaithfull unto God. There is a two-fold unstedfastnesse, one in degrees, another in objects, the former proceeds from the remainders of corruption, and therefore is found in some measure in the best of us, the other from the predominancy of Lust which over-swaies the heart unto evill. Good motions and resolutions in evill hearts are like violent impressions upon a stone, though it move upwards for a while, yet Nature will at last prevale, and make it ^z returne to its owne motion. Secondly, a Heart set on lusts mooves to *no ends but its a owne*, and selfe-ends defile an action though otherwise never so specious; turnes ^b zeale it selfe and obedience into murder, hinders ^c all

all faith in us, and acceptance with God, nullifies all other ends, swallows up Gods glory and the good of others, as the leane Kine did the fat : as a Wenne in the Body robs and consumes the part adjoyning, so doe selfe ends the right end. Thirdly, the Heart is a Fountaine and Principle, and Principles are ever one and uniforme, out of the same Fountaine cannot come bitter water and sweet, and therefore the Apostle speakes of some, That they are double-minded men, that have a heart and a heart, yet the trueth is, that is but with reference to their pretences ; for the Heart really and totally looks but one way. Every man is spiritually a marryed person , and hee can bee joyned but to one; Christ and an Idol (as every lust is) cannot consist, hee will have a chaste Spouse, hee will have all our desires and affections subject unto him; if the Heart cannot count Him altogether lovely, and all things else but dung

L

c Ioh.5.44

Iam.3.12.

Iam.1.8.

Rom.7.3,4

Mat.6.24.

Ephes.5.27

Psal.45.10

Mat.10.37

Cant.5.10

16.4

Phil.3.8.

in

in comparison of him, Hee will refuse the match, and with-hold his consens.

§ 77.

Let us see in some few particulars what impotency unto any good the Creatures bring upon the hearts of men. To *Pray* requires an hungry spirit, a heart convinced of its owne emptiness, a desire of intimate communion with God; but now the Creature drawes the heart & all the desires thereof to it selfe, as an il-spleene doth the nourishment in a body; lust makes men pray amisse, fixeth the desires onely on its own provisions, makes a man unwilling to bee carried any way towards Heaven but his owne. The young man prayed unto Christ to shew him the way to eternall life; but when Christ told him that his riches, his covetousnesse, his boosome lust stood between him & salvation, his prayer was turned into sorrow, re-pentance and apostacy.

Iam. 4.3.

Mark. 10.
21, 22.

§ 78.

Meditation requires a sequestration of the thoughts, a minde unmixt

unmixt with other cares, a sincere and uncorrupted relish of the word; now when the heart is prepossess'd with lust, and taken up with another treasure, it is as impossible to be weaned from it, as for an hungry Eagle (a Creature of the sharpest sight to fixe upon, and of the sharpest appetite to desire its object) to forbear the body on which it would prey; as unable to conceive a sight of the preciousness & power of the Word, as a feareless palate to taste the proper sweetnesse of the meat it eateth.

In Hearing the Word, the heart can never accept Gods Commands, till it be first empty, a man cannot receive the richest gift that is, with a hand that was full before. Now Thornes, which are the cares of the World, filling the heart, must needs choke the seed of the Word. The Pharisees and Lawyers rejected the counsell of God against themselves, because their pride would not let them yield to such a baptism, or to

Mat. 6. 21.

Mat. 14. 28

§ 79.

Luk. 7. 29,
30.

Mat. 9, 12.
v. 3.

Iam. 1. 21.

such a doctrine as requires emptiness, confession of sinnes, justifying of God, and condemning of themselves (for these were the purposes of Johns Baptisme; and of the preaching of Repentance.) That man comes but to be rejected who makes love to one who hath fixt her heart and affection already. A man must come to Gods Word as to a Physician, a mere patient without reservations, or exceptions, hee must set his corruptions as an open mark for the Word to shoot at, he must not come with capitulations and provisoes, but lay downe the body of sinne before God to have every earthly member hewed off. Till a man come with such a resolution as to be willing to part from al naughtiness, hee will never receive the ingrafted Word with meekenesse, and an honest heart; a man will never follow Christ in the wayes of his Word, till first he have learned to deny himselfe, and his owne lusts. Nay, if a man should binde his

his devotion to his heart *With vows*, yet a *Dekila* in his bosome, a lust in his spirit, would easily nullifie the strongest vowe. The Jewes made a serious and solemne protestation to *Jeremy* that they would obey the voyce of the Lord in that which they desired him to enquire of God about whether it were good or e-
vill; and yet when they found the message crossie their owne lusts and reservations, their resolutions are turned into rebellions, their pride quickly breaks asunder their vow, and they tell the Prophet to his face that hee dealt falsey between God and them; a refuge which they were well acquainted with before. Some when their conscience awakens and begins to disquiet them, make vowe to binde themselves unto better obedience, and forme of godlinesse; but as *Sampson* was bound in vaine with any cords so long as his haire grew into its length; so in vaine doth any man bind himselfe with vowes, so long as he nou-

Icr.42. 56.

Icr.43. 2.

Icr.5. 12.

Ier.17. 15.

2.Chiro.36,
16.

L 3. risheth

Luk. 8. 29.

riſheth his luſts within; a vow in the hand of a fleshy luſt wil be but like the chaineſ and fetters of that fierce lunaticke; very eaſily broken aſunder. This is not the right way. First, labour with thy heart, cleanse out thy corrupcions, purge thy life as the Prophet did the waters, with ſeafoninge and rectifying the fountaine: Tis one thing to give eaſe from a preſent paine, another thing to root out the diſease it ſelue. If the chinkes in a ſhip be unſtop't, tis in vaine to labour at the pumpe; ſo long as there is a conſtant in-let, the water can never be exhausted; ſo is it in theſe formall reſolutions and vowes, they may eaſe the preſent paine, let out a little water, reſtraine from ſome particular acts, but ſo long as the heart is unpurged, luſt will returne and predominate. In a word, whereaſ in the ſervice of God there are two main things required, faith to beginne, and courage or pa-tience to goe through, luſt hindres both theſe. How can yee beleeve
ſince

since yee seeke for glory one from another ? Ioh. 5.44. when persecu-
tion arose because of the Word, the
Temporary was presently offend-
ed. Matth. 13.21.

Thirdly and lastly in one word. A
man ought not to set his heart on
the Creature because of the *Noble-
nesse of the heart.* To set the heart
on the Creature is to set a Diamond
in lead : None are so mad to keepe
their jewels in a cellar , and their
coales in a closet ; and yet such is
the profanenesse of wicked men to
keepe God in their lips onely, and
Mammon in their hearts, to make
the earth their treasure, and heaven
but as an accessory and appendix
to that. And now, as *Samuel* spake
unto *Saul*, set not thine heart upon
thine Asses, for the desire of Israel is
upon thee ; Why should a Kings
heart be set upon Asses ? So may I
say, why should Christians hearts
be set upon earthly things, since they
have the desires of all flesh to fixe
upon ?

§ 80.

I. Sam. 9.
20.

§ 81.

Judg. 9. 14,
15.

*Nec melior
res servi,
nec domini
deteriores.*
2. Sam. 23.
6,7.

I wil conclude with one word upon the last particular, How to use the Creatures as Thornes, or as vexing things. First, let not the Bramble bee King, Let not earthly things beare rule over thy affections, fire will rise out of them, which will consume thy Cedars, emasculate all the powers of thy Soule. Let Grace sit in the throne, and earthly things bee subordinate to the wisedome and rule of Gods Spirit in thy heart. They are excellent servants, but pernicious Masters. Secondly, Be arm'd when thou touchest, or medlest with them : Armed against the Lusts &c against the Temptations that arise from them. Get faith to place thy heart upon better promises ; enter not upon them without prayer unto God, that since thou art going amongst snares, he would carry thee through with wisedome and faithfulness, and teach thee how to use them as his blessings, and as instruments of his glory. Make a covenant with thine

thine heart, as Job with his eyes,
have a jealousie & suspition of thine
cvill heart, lest it be surpri'zd, and
bewitched with sinfull affections.
Thirdly, touch them gently, do not
hug, love, dote upon the Creature,
nor grapse it with adulterous em-
braces; the love of money is a root
of mischiefe, and is enmity against
God. Fourthly, use them for hed-
ges and fences, to relieve the Saints,
to make friends of unrighteous
Mammon, to defend the Church of
Christ, but by no means have them
In thy Field, but only *About it*; min-
gle it not with thy Corn, lest it choak
and stifle all. And lastly, use them
as *Gedeons*, for weapons of just re-
venge against the enemies of Gods
Church, to vindicate his truth and
glory, and then by being wise, and
faithfull in a little, thou shalt at last
be made Ruler over much, and
enter into thy Ma-
sters Joy.

1. Tim. 6.10
I Cor. 4.4.
1. Joh. 2.15

Judg. 8.16.